JOHN A. SEAVERNS

Extraordinary FOX CHACE, by the Duke of Beauforts Hounds, at CASTLE COOMBE.

THOUGHTS

UPON

HARE AND FOX HUNTING,

IN A

SERIES OF LETTERS TO A FRIEND,

IN WHICH ARE GIVEN

AMPLE DIRECTIONS FOR ERECTING A KENNEL, THE MANAGEMENT OF HOUNDS, AND THE DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE HUNTSMAN AND WHIPPER-IN.

ALSO

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

Moſt Celebrated Dog Kennels in the Kingdom.

Illuſtrated with twenty beautiful Engravings.

By PETER BECKFORD, Esq.

——— Si quid noviſti rectius iſtis,
Candidus imperti : ſi non, his utere mecum. HOR.

A NEW EDITION.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR VERNOR AND HOOD, BIRCHIN LANE, CORNHILL. 1796.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Publiſhers of the preſent Edition of this much-admired *Treatiſe upon Hunting* feel themſelves impelled to ſtate candidly, but briefly, the motives which induced them to undertake it.

That moſt ſportſmen who were not already poſſeſſed of the former editions of this valuable *library of ſporting knowledge*, have been deſirous of procuring it, but ſought for it in vain, is a fact well known to every frequenter of the chace; the book, therefore, meets the public eye in its preſent embelliſhed ſtate, in conſequence of repeated ſolicitations from gentlemen in almoſt every quarter of the kingdom, accompanied with well-grounded aſſurances from many of them, that it would by no means be diſagreeable to Mr. Beckford.

Conſcious of not being able to add to the literary fame which the writer has acquired by this publication, they have confined themſelves merely to the decorative, inſerting only ſuch explanatory deſcriptions of the plates as appeared neceſſary.

On the whole, they truſt, that without giving any offence to the ingenious author, (the idea of which would be painful to them) they have contributed not a little to the gratification of every admirer of the cheerful and manly amuſements of the field.

PRE-

PREFACE.

AS the author of the following letters hath been charged with inhumanity, and yet conjectured to be a clergyman, it is now become neceſſary to publiſh his name; and though it may not be uſual to anſwer an anonymous writer, yet, as it is not impoſſible that ſome readers may have adopted his ſentiments, this conſideration, and this alone, induces the author to anſwer the objections which the critic hath ſo wantonly made. Whatever may be the imperfection of theſe letters, the author is deſirous that it ſhould fall, as it ought, upon himſelf only. The objections, which he thinks were unneceſſarily made, he has endeavoured to remove. All intentional cruelty

he entirely diſclaims. His appeal from that accuſation lies to thoſe whom he addreſſes as his judges; not (as the critic may think) becauſe they are equally barbarous with himſelf, but becauſe ſportſmen only are competent to decide.

CON-

CONTENTS.

LETTER I. Page 1.

The ſubject introduced—Hunting recommended not only as an entertaining, but alſo as a wholeſome exerciſe—Cervantes, and the Spectator—their opinion of hunting—For whom theſe letters are intended—Explanation of the frontiſpiece.

LETTER II. Page 15.

The kennel deſcribed with all its parts.

LETTER III. Page 27.

Of hounds in general—Hounds of the middle ſize recommended—A perfect hound deſcribed—Skirters diſapproved of—Objections to a large pack.

LETTER IV. Page 37.

Of feeding hounds, and managing them in the kennel—Of the feeder—Cleanlineſs recommended—Time of feeding ill ſuited to ſeverity.

LETTER V. Page 53.

Of breeding hounds, and naming them—Of the treatment of whelps, when firſt taken into the kennel—Of rounding them, and ſpaying bitches—Of the number neceſſary to keep up the ſtock—A liſt of names.

LETTER VI. Page 76.

Of coupling young hounds, and breaking them from ſheep—Of entering them—Beſt method to make them ſteady—Kennel diſcipline objected to.

LETTER VII. Page 86.

The ſame ſubject continued—Hounds made handy by being taken out often—Different methods of entering young fox-hounds deſcribed—Entering them at the martin cat recommended—Entering them at hare cenſured.

LET-

LETTER VIII. Page 107.

Of diſeaſes and their remedies—A curious preſcription for the cure of the mange, either in man or beaſt—Obſervations on madneſs.

LETTER IX. Page 122.

Of the huntſman and whipper-in—Obſervations on ſcent.

LETTER X. Page 133.

Hare-hunting deſcribed in all its parts—Of hounds beſt ſuited to that diverſion—Of the beſt method of hunting them—Sportſmen not intentionally cruel—Of the trial in a morniug—Of hare finders—A particular method of hare-hunting related—Curious advice about dreſſing a hare.

LETTER XI. Page 145.

Hare-hunting continued—The many ſhifts which a hare makes deſcribed—A hint to ſuch ſportſmen as continue talking when their hounds are at fault—Chopping hares cenſured; directions how to prevent it—Of the harmony of a pack—A hint to ſuch ſportſmen as ride over their hounds.

LET-

LETTER XII. Page 154.

Of a hare-warren—The hares how caught—Beſt method of turning them out—How a hare may be made to run ſtrait—Time to leave off hare-hunting—Of ſtag-hunting at Turin.

LETTER XIII. Page 160.

The deſcription of a fox-chace attempted.

LETTER XIV. Page 170.

Remarks on the foregoing letter—when *an early hour is neceſſary—Some obſervations on the drawing of hounds—Bad ſportſmen deſcribed—A gentleman's extraordinary knowledge of hunting—To make hounds ſteady and draw well, recommended—Much noiſe at finding a fox cenſured.*

LETTER XV. Page 181.

Remarks on letter 13 *continued—Some directions to the huntſman and whipper-in—Of ſtile in killing a fox—Of changing from one fox to another—Rules to be obſerved when this happens—Some obſervations on the caſting of hounds—Riding too cloſe upon them cenſured.*

LET-

LETTER XVI. Page 191.

Remarks on letter 13 *ſtill continued—Of halloos—Some remarkable inſtances of them—When a fox ought not to be given up—When a pack of fox-hounds may be ſuffered to try back—When ſportſmen ought to be ſilent—Method of treating a fox deſcribed—When it is the beſt time* to eat him.

LETTER XVII. Page 199.

A digreſſion in favour of fox-hunting—View halloos, when too frequently given, cenſured—Of ſtopping the tail hounds, and throwing them in at head—Of ſkirters, when they do hurt—A hint to thoſe who follow hounds—When foxes are in too great plenty, how to diſperſe them—A Frenchman's opinion of a fox-chace.

LETTER XVIII. Page 209.

When an excellent whipper-in may be of more uſe than an excellent huntſman—Barbarity defined—Unneceſſary ſeverity cenſured—Duty of a whipper-in—A perfect one deſcribed—Of ſteadineſs—Of hounds that kill ſheep—Neceſſity of obedience—After hounds are made ſteady, ſome caution

required to keep them ſo—A curious letter from a huntſman.

LETTER XIX. Page 227.

How a huntſman ſhould draw his hounds—Placing hounds advantageouſly, a neceſſary part of fox-hunting—When hounds do not hunt, how they ſhould be fed—Of drafting hounds—When a huntſman ſhould be after his time—Where foxes like beſt to lie—When gentlemen may be of ſervice to hounds—Long drags, the objection to them—The ſagacity of the buck-hound accounted for—Correction of hounds by the huntſman, objected to—Hounds that will not leave a cover, how treated—Of the good management of a pack of fox-hounds.

LETTER XX. Page 246.

How a huntſman ſhould caſt his hounds—When hounds had better be exerciſed on the turnpike road, than hunted—When it may be right to ſtop the tail hounds, and throw them in at head—Huntſmen that are ſlow cenſured—When they ſhould be careful not to run the heel—When hounds have many ſcents, how they ſhould be managed—Of the heading back of foxes—What conſtitutes a perfect huntſman.

LET-

LETTER XXI. Page 266.

A hare-hunter an improper huntſman to a pack of fox-hounds—The harrier and fox-hound, in what they materially differ—Fitneſs eſſential to beauty —How ſportſmen may be of ſervice to tired hounds—Of long days, the diſadvantage—The uſe—Why a fox hound ſhould be above his work— Much encouragement to hounds on bad ſcenting days, objected to—Of hounds that run falſe.

LETTER XXII. Page 278.

Blood neceſſary to a pack of fox-hounds—The likelieſt method to procure it—Of accidents that happen in fox-hunting—Of the proper time to leave off fox-hunting—A wanton deſtruction of foxes cenſured—Inequality of ſcent unfavourable to hounds—An extraordinary character of a huntſman.

LETTER XXIII. Page 295.

Bag-foxes: ſome objection to them—A fox-court recommended—Directions how cubs ſhould be treated —Some caution neceſſary in buying of foxes—Of digging foxes—Badgers objected to—A method to ſtink an earth—How badgers may be caught—Of terriers—Of deſtroying foxes—A remarkable inſtance of the lex talionis.

LET-

LETTER XXIV. Page 309.

Subject concluded—Some obſervations concerning the management of a hunter—Remarks upon ſhoeing—Summer hunting objected to—Virgil, Horace, Pliny: their opinion of a country life—Hunting not ſo dangerous as it has been thought—Some quotations from other authors.

Account of the moſt celebrated dog-kennels, page 326.

DIREC-

DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER,

FOR PLACING THE

C U T S.

	Page.
FOX-Chace at Caſtle Coombe	*To face Title.*
Richard Fairbrother	131
Going out in the Morning	139
Finding the Hare	140
Trying for a Hare	145
Hare in View	146
Hitting her off at a Fault	147
Death of the Hare	151
Drawing Cover	162
Breaking Cover	163
In View	165
At Fault	167
The Death	169
Earth ſtopping	241
His Majeſty's Dog Kennel, at Aſcot	326
Swinley Lodge	329
Duke of Richmond's Dog Kennel, at Goodwood	331
Duke of Bedford's Stables, &c. at Woburn	334
Sir William Rowley's Dog Kennel, at Tendering Hall	336
Plan of ditto	338

THOUGHTS

UPON

HUNTING.

LETTER I.

Briſtol Hot-Wells, March 20, 1779.

YOU could not have choſen, my friend, a better ſeaſon than the preſent, to remind me of ſending you my Thoughts upon Hunting; for the accident that brought me hither is likely to detain me ſome time: beſides, I have no longer a plea for not obeying your commands. Hitherto, indeed, I had excuſed myſelf, in hopes that ſome publication on the ſubject might have rendered theſe letters needleſs; but ſince nothing of the kind, although ſo much wanted, has appeared, as I am now ſufficiently unoccupied to undertake the taſk, I ſhall not think it a tri-

fling ſubject, if you think it a neceſſary one; and I wiſh my own experience of the diverſion may enable me to anſwer the many queſtions which you are pleaſed to propoſe concerning it.

Knowing your partiality to rhyme, I could wiſh to ſend you my thoughts in verſe; but as this would take up more time, without anſwering your purpoſe better, I muſt beg you to accept them in humble proſe, which, in my opinion, is better ſuited to the ſubject. Didactic eſſays ſhould be as little clogged as poſſible; they ſhould proceed regularly and clearly; ſhould be eaſily written, and as eaſily underſtood, having leſs to do with words than things. The game of *crambo* is out of faſhion, to the no ſmall prejudice of the rhyming tribe; and before I could find a rhyme to *porringer*, I ſhould hope to finiſh a great part of theſe letters: I ſhall therefore, without farther delay, proceed upon them: this, however, I muſt deſire to be firſt underſtood between us; that when, to ſave trouble to us both, I ſay a thing *is*, without tacking a ſalvo to the tail of it, ſuch as, *in my opinion—to the beſt of my judgment*, &c. &c.—you ſhall not call my humility in queſtion, as the aſſertion is not meant to be mathematically certain. When I have any better authority than my own, ſuch as Somervile, for inſtance, (who, by the bye, is the only one that has written intelligibly on this ſubject) I

ſhall

ſhall take the liberty of giving it you in his own words, to ſave you the trouble of turning to him.

You may remember, perhaps, that when we were hunting together at Turin, the hounds having loſt the ſtag, and the piqueurs (ſtill more in fault than they) being ignorant which way to try, the king bid them ask *Milord Anglois*. Nor is it to be wondered at, if an Engliſhman ſhould be thought to underſtand the art of hunting, as the hounds which this country produces are univerſally allowed to be the beſt in the world: from whence I think this inference may be drawn, that although every man who follows this diverſion may not underſtand it, yet it is extraordinary of the many who do, that one only of any note ſhould have written on the ſubject. It is rather unfortunate for me that this ingenious ſportſman ſhould have preferred writing an elegant poem to an uſeful leſſon; ſince, if it had pleaſed him, he might eaſily have ſaved me the trouble of writing theſe letters. Is it not ſtrange in a country where the preſs is in one continued labour with opinions of almoſt every kind, from the moſt ſerious and inſtructive to the moſt ridiculous and trifling; a country beſides, ſo famous for the beſt hounds, and the beſt horſes to follow them, whoſe authors ſometimes hunt, and whoſe ſportſmen ſometimes write, that only the practical part

of hunting ſhould be known? There is, however, no doubt that the practical part of it would be improved, were it to be accompanied by theory.

France, Germany, and Italy, are alſo ſilent, I believe, on this ſubject, though each of theſe countries has had its ſportſmen. Foxes, it is true, they never hunt, and hares but ſeldom; yet the ſtag and wild boar, both in France and in Germany, are ſtill purſued with the utmoſt ſplendour and magnificence. In Italy there has been no hunting ſince the death of the Duke of Parma: he was very fond of it, and I apprehend all hunting in that country ceaſed with him. The only ſportſmen now remaining are gentlemen in green coats, who taking their *couteaux de chaſſe* along with them, walk into the fields to catch ſmall birds, which they call *andar a la caccia*, or, in plain Engliſh, *going a hunting*; yet it has not been ſo with horſemanſhip; *that* has been treated ſcientifically by all—in Italy by Pignatelli—in Germany by Iſenbourg—and in France by La Gueriniere: nor are the uſeful leſſons of the Duke of Newcaſtle confined to this country only; they are both read and practiſed every where; nor is *he* the *only* noble lord who has written on the ſubject. While upon hunting, all are ſilent, and were it not for the muſe of Somervile, who has ſo judiciouſly and ſo ſweetly ſung, the dog,

that

that uſeful, that honeſt, that faithful, that diſintereſted, that entertaining animal, would be ſuffered to paſs unnoticed and undiſtinguiſhed.

A northern court once, indeed, did honour this animal with a particular mark of approbation and reſpect; but the fidelity of the dog has ſince given place to the ſagacity of the elephant.* Naturaliſts, it is true, have included dogs in the ſpecific deſcriptions they have given us of animals. Authors may have written on hunting, and bookſellers may know many that to ſportſmen are unknown; but I again repeat, that I know not any writer, ancient or modern, from the time of Nimrod to the preſent day (one only excepted) who has given any uſeful information to a ſportſman.†

It may be objected, that the hunting of a pack of hounds depends upon the huntſman, and that the huntſman, generally ſpeaking, is an illiterate fellow, who ſeldom can either read or write: this cannot well be denied. I muſt, therefore, obſerve, that it is impoſſible for the buſineſs of a kennel to go on as it ought, unleſs

* Vide Mr. Pope's Letter to Mr. Cromwell.

† Many French authors have given rules for hunting the hare, and ſtag; to make this paſſage leſs exceptionable, therefore, it may be better perhaps, inſtead of *ſportſman*, to read *fox-hunter*.

the maſter himſelf knows ſomething of it. There muſt be an underſtanding ſomewhere, and without it no gentleman can enjoy in perfection this noble diverſion.

It was the opinion of a great ſportſman, that it is not leſs difficult to find a perfect huntſman, than a good prime miniſter. Without taking upon me to determine what requiſites may be neceſſary to form a good prime miniſter, I will deſcribe ſome of thoſe which are eſſentially neceſſary towards forming a perfect huntſman; qualities which, I will venture to ſay, would not diſgrace more brilliant ſituations: ſuch as a clear head, nice obſervation, quick apprehenſion, undaunted courage, ſtrength of conſtitution, activity of body, a good ear, and a good voice.

There is not any one branch of knowledge, commonly dignified with the title of art, which has not ſuch rudiments or principles, as may lead to a competent degree of ſkill, if not to perfection, in it: whilſt hunting, the ſole buſineſs of ſome, and the amuſement of moſt of the youth in this kingdom, ſeems left entirely to chance. Its purſuit puts us, both to greater expence, and alſo, to greater inconvenience than any other; yet, notwithſtanding this, we truſt our diverſion in it to the ſole guidance of a huntſman: we follow juſt as he ſhall chuſe to conduct us; and

we

we ſuffer the ſucceſs, or diſappointment of the chace to depend ſolely on the judgment of a fellow, who is frequently a greater brute than the creature on which he rides. I would not be underſtood to mean by this, that a huntſman ſhould be a ſcholar, or that every gentleman ſhould hunt his own hounds: it is not neceſſary a huntſman ſhould be a man of letters; but give me leave to obſerve, that had he the beſt underſtanding, he would frequently find opportunities of exerciſing it, and intricacies which might put it to the teſt. You will ſay, perhaps, there is ſomething too laborious in the occupation of a huntſman for a gentleman to take it upon himſelf; you may alſo think it is beneath him; I agree with you in both—yet I hope that he may have leave to underſtand it. If he follow the diverſion, it is a ſign of his liking it; and if he like it, ſurely it is ſome diſgrace to him to be ignorant of the means moſt conducive to obtain it.

I find there will be no neceſſity to ſay much in commendation of a diverſion to you, which you ſo profeſſedly admire;* it would be needleſs, there-

* Since the above was written, hunting has undergone a ſevere cenſure, (vide Monthly Review for September, 1781) nor will any thing ſatisfy the critic leſs than its total abolition. He recommends feats of agility to be practiſed and exhibited inſtead of it. Whether the amendment propoſed by the learned

therefore, to enumerate the heroes of antiquity who were taught the art of hunting; or the many great men (among whom was the famous Galen) who have united in recommending it. I ſhall, however, remind you, that your beloved hero, Henry the Fourth of France, made it his chief amuſement, and his very love letters, ſtrange as it may appear, are full of little elſe: and that one of the greateſt miniſters which our own country ever produced, was ſo fond of this diverſion, that the firſt letter he opened, as I have been told, was generally that of his huntſman.—In moſt countries, from the earlieſt times, hunting has been a principal occupation of the people, either for uſe or amuſement; and many princes have made it their chief delight: a circumſtance which occaſioned the following *bon mot*.—Louis the Fifteenth was ſo paſſionately fond of this diverſion, that it occupied him entirely; the King of Pruſſia, who never hunts, gives up a great deal of his time to muſic, and himſelf plays on the flute: a German, laſt war meeting a French-

gentleman be deſirable or not, I ſhall forbear to determine; taking the liberty, however, to remind him, that as hunting hath ſtood its ground from the earlieſt times, been encouraged and approved by the beſt authorities, and practiſed by the greateſt men, it cannot now be ſuppoſed to dread criticiſm, or to need ſupport. Hunting originates in nature itſelf, and it is in perfect correſpondence to this law of nature, that the ſeveral animals are provided with neceſſary means of attack and defence.

man,

man, asked him very impertinently, "*Si son maitre "chassoit toujours?*" "*Oui, oui,*" replied the other —"*il ne joue jamais de la flute.*"—The reply was excellent, but it would have been as well, perhaps, for mankind, if that great man had never been otherwise employed.—Hunting is the soul of a country life; it gives health to the body, and contentment to the mind; and is one of the few pleasures we can enjoy in society, without prejudice either to ourselves, or our friends.

The Spectator has drawn with infinite humour the character of a man who passes his whole life in pursuit of trifles; and it is probable, other Will Wimbles might still be found. I hope, however, that he did not think they were confined to the country only. Triflers there are of every denomination. Are we not all triflers? and are we not told that all is vanity?—The Spectator, without doubt, felt great compassion for Mr. Wimble; yet Mr. Wimble might not have been a proper object of it; since it is more than probable he was a happy man, if the employment of his time in obliging others, and pleasing himself, can be thought to have made him so.—Whether vanity mislead us or not in the choice of our pursuits, the pleasures or advantages which result from them, will best determine. —I fear the occupation of few gentlemen will admit of nice scrutiny; occupations, therefore, that

that amuſe, and are at the ſame time innocent; that promote exerciſe and conduce to health; though they may appear trifles in the eyes of others, certainly are not ſo to thoſe who enjoy them. Of this number I think I may reckon hunting, and I am particularly glad the ſame author furniſhes a quotation in ſupport of it; "for my own part," ſays this elegant writer, "I "intend to hunt twice a week during my ſtay "with Sir Roger; and ſhall preſcribe the mo- "derate uſe of this exerciſe to all my country "friends, as the beſt phyſic for mending a bad "conſtitution, and preſerving a good one."— The inimitable Cervantes alſo honourably mentions this diverſion: he makes Sancho ſay — "Mercy on me, what pleaſure can you find, any "of ye all, in killing a poor beaſt that never "meant any harm!" that the Duke may reply, "—You are miſtaken, Sancho; hunting wild "beaſts is the moſt proper exerciſe for knights "and princes; for in the chace of a ſtout noble "beaſt, may be repreſented the whole art of "war, ſtratagems, policy, and ambuſcades, with "all other devices uſually practiſed to overcome "an enemy with ſafety. Here we are expoſed "to the extremities of heat and cold; eaſe and "lazineſs can have no room in this diverſion; "by this we are inured to toil and hardſhip, our "limbs are ſtrengthened, our joints made ſupple, "and our whole body hale and active: in ſhort,

"it

" it is an exercife that may be beneficial to many, " and can be prejudicial to none."—Small, indeed, is the number of thofe, who in the courfe of 5000 years have employed themfelves in the advancement of ufeful knowledge. Mankind have been bleft with but one Titus, that we know of; and, it is to be feared, he has had but few imitators. Days and years fly away, nor is any account taken of them, and how many may reafonably be fuppofed to pafs without affording even amufement to others, or fatisfaction to ourfelves. Much more, I think, might be faid in favour of the Wimbles; but it muft be confeffed, that the man who fpends his whole time in trifles, paffes it contemptibly, compared with thofe who are employed in refearches after knowledge ufeful to mankind, or in profeffions ufeful to the ftate.

I am glad to find that you approve of the plan I propofe to obferve in the courfe of thefe letters, wherein it fhall be my endeavour not to omit any thing which it may be neceffary for you to know; at leaft, as far as my own obfervation and experience will give me leave. The experience I have had may be of ufe to you at prefent; others, perhaps, hereafter may write more judicioufly and more fully on the fubject: you know it is my intereft to wifh they would. The few who have written on hunting, refer you to their predeceffors for great part of the information

tion you might expect from them; and who their predeceſſors were I have yet to learn. Even Somervile is leſs copious than I could wiſh, and has purpoſely omitted what is not to be found elſewhere; I mean receipts for the cure of ſuch diſeaſes as hounds are ſubject to. He holds ſuch information cheap, and beneath his lofty muſe. Proſe has no excuſe, and you may depend on every information that I can give. The familiar manner in which my thoughts will be conveyed to you in theſe letters, may ſufficiently evince the intention of the author. They are written with no other deſign than to be of uſe to ſportſmen. Were my aim to amuſe, I would not endeavour to inſtruct. A ſong might ſuit the purpoſe better than an eſſay. To improve health by promoting exerciſe; to excite gentlemen who are fond of hunting to obtain the knowledge neceſſary to enjoy it in perfection; and to leſſen the puniſhments which are too often inflicted on an animal ſo friendly to man, are the chief ends intended by the following letters.

I ſhall not pretend to lay down rules which are to be equally good in every country; I ſhall think myſelf ſufficiently juſtified in recommending ſuch as have been tried with ſucceſs in the countries where I have generally hunted. As almoſt every country has a different dialect, you will alſo excuſe, I hope, any terms that may not be

be current with *you:* I will take the beſt care I can that the number ſhall be ſmall. I need not, I think, adviſe you not to adopt too eaſily the opinions of other men. You will hear a tall man ſay it is folly to ride any but large horſes; and every little man in company will immediately ſell his little horſes, buy ſuch as he can hardly mount, and ride them in hilly countries, for which they are totally unfit. Pride induces ſome men to dictate; indolence makes others like to be dictated to; ſo both parties find their account in it. You will not let this miſlead you. You will dare to think for yourſelf.—Nor will you believe every man who pretends to know what you like better than you do yourſelf. There is a degree of coxcombry, I believe, in every thing: you have heard, I make no doubt, that greyhounds are either black, or white, or black and white; and if you have any faith in thoſe who ſay they know beſt, they will tell you that there are no others.* Prejudice, however, is by far too blind a guide to be depended on.

I have read ſomewhere, that there is no book ſo bad, but a judicious reader may derive ſome advantage from the reading of it; I hope theſe

* There is a faſhion in greyhounds: ſome courſers even pretend that *all* not being of the faſhionable colour are curs, and not greyhounds. Greyhound ſeems to be a corruption from ſome other word—moſt probably from gaze-hound.

letters will not prove the only exception. Should they fall into the hands of ſuch as are not ſportſmen, I need not, I think, make any excuſes to them for the contents, ſince the title ſufficiently ſhews for whom they were deſigned. Nor are they meant for ſuch ſportſmen as need not inſtruction, but for thoſe that do; to whom, I preſume, in ſome parts at leaſt, they may be found of uſe. Since a great book has been long looked upon as a great evil, I ſhall take care not to ſin that way at leaſt, and ſhall endeavour to make theſe letters as ſhort as the extent of my ſubject will admit.

I ſhall now take my leave of you for the preſent; in my next letter I ſhall proceed according to your deſire, till I have anſwered all your queſtions. Remember you are not to expect entertainment; I wiſh that you may find ſome inſtruction: the dryneſs of the ſubject may excuſe *your* want of the one, and I cannot doubt of your indulgence, whilſt I am obeying your commands, though *I* ſhould fail in the other.

LET-

LETTER II.

SINCE you intend to make hunting your chief amuſement in the country, you are certainly in the right to give it ſome conſideration before you begin, and not like Maſter Stephen in the play, firſt buy a hawk, and then hunt after a book to keep it by. I am glad to find that you intend to build a new kennel, and I flatter myſelf the experience I have had may be of ſome uſe to you in building it: it is not only the firſt thing that you ſhould do, but it is alſo the moſt important. As often as your mind may alter, ſo often may you eaſily change from one kind of hound to another; but your kennel will ſtill remain the ſame; will ſtill keep its original imperfections, unleſs altered at a great expence; and be leſs perfect at laſt than it might have been made at firſt, had you purſued a proper plan. It is true, hounds may be kept in barns and ſtables; but thoſe who keep them in ſuch places can beſt inform you whether their hounds are capable of anſwering the purpoſes for which they were deſigned. The ſenſe of ſmelling, the *odora canum vis*, as Virgil calls it, is ſo exquiſite in a hound, that I cannot but ſuppoſe every ſtench is hurtful to it. It is that faculty on which all our hopes depend:

depend; it is *that* which muſt lead us o'er greaſy fallows, where the feet of the game we purſue being clogged leave little ſcent behind, as well as o'er ſtony roads, through watery meads, and where ſheep have ſtained the ground.

Cleanlineſs is not only abſolutely neceſſary to the noſe of the hound, but alſo to the preſervation of his health. Dogs are naturally cleanly animals; they ſeldom, when they can help it, dung where they lie; air and freſh ſtraw are neceſſary to keep them healthy. They are ſubject to the mange; a diſorder to which poverty and naſtineſs will very much contribute. *This*, though eaſily ſtopped at its firſt appearance, if ſuffered to continue long may leſſen the powers of the animal; and the remedies which are then to be uſed, being in themſelves violent, muſt injure his conſtitution: it had better be prevented: let the kennel, therefore, be an object of your particular care.

"Upon ſome little eminence erect,
And fronting to the ruddy dawn; its courts
On either hand wide opening to receive
The ſun's all-cheering beams, when mild he ſhines,
And gilds the mountain tops."———

Let ſuch as Somervile directs be the ſituation; its ſize muſt be ſuited to the number of its inhabitants; the architecture of it may be conformable to

to your own taſte. Uſeleſs expence I ſhould not recommend; yet, as I ſuppoſe you will often make it a viſit, at leaſt in the hunting ſeaſon, I could wiſh it might have neatneſs without, as well as cleanlineſs within, the more to allure you to it; I ſhould for the ſame reaſon wiſh it to be as near to your houſe as you will give it leave. I know there are many objections to its being very near; I foreſee ſtill more to its being at a diſtance: there is a vulgar ſaying, that it is the maſter's eye that makes the horſe fat; I can aſſure you it is even more neceſſary in the kennel, where cleanlineſs is not leſs eſſential than food.

There are, I make no doubt, many better kennels than mine, ſome of which you ſhould ſee before you begin to build; you can but make uſe of my plan in caſe that you like no other better. If, in the mean time, I am to give you my opinion what a kennel ought to be, I muſt ſend you a deſcription of my own, for I have not ſeen many others.

I would adviſe you to make it large enough at firſt, as any addition afterwards muſt ſpoil the appearance of it. I have been obliged to add to mine, which was built from a plan of my own, and intended, at firſt, for a pack of beagles. My feeding-yard being too ſmall, I will endeavour to remedy that defect in the deſcription I ſend you,

which may be ſtill enlarged or leſſened, as you think fit, or as your occaſions may require. The feeding troughs ſhould be wide at the bottom, and muſt have wooden covers.

I think two kennels abſolutely neceſſary to the well-being of the hounds; when there is but one, it is ſeldom ſweet; and when cleaned out, the hounds, particularly in winter, ſuffer both whilſt it is cleaning, and as long as it remains wet afterwards. To be more clearly underſtood by you, I ſhall call one of theſe the *hunting-kennel*, by which I mean that kennel into which the hounds, intended to hunt the next day, are drafted. Uſed always to the ſame kennel, they will be drafted with little trouble; they will anſwer to their names more readily, and you may count your hounds into the kennel with as much eaſe as a ſhepherd counts his ſheep out of the fold.

When the feeder firſt comes to the kennel in a morning, he ſhould let out the hounds into the outer court; and in bad weather he ſhould open the door of the hunting-kennel, leſt want of reſt ſhould incline them to go into it. The lodging-room ſhould then be cleaned out, the doors and windows of it opened, the litter ſhaken up, and the kennel made ſweet and clean before the hounds return to it again. The great court and the

the other kennels are not leſs to be attended to, nor ſhould you paſs over in ſilence any omiſſion that is hurtful to your hounds.

The floor of each lodging-room ſhould be bricked, and ſloped on both ſides to run to the centre, with a gutter left to carry off the water, that when they are waſhed they may be ſoon dry. If water ſhould remain through any fault in the floor, it ſhould be carefully mopped up; for as warmth is in the greateſt degree neceſſary to hounds after work, ſo damps are equally prejudicial. You will think me, perhaps, too particular in theſe directions; yet there can be no harm in your knowing what your ſervants ought to do; as it is not impoſſible it may be ſometimes neceſſary for you to ſee that it is done. In your military profeſſion you are perfectly acquainted with the duty of a common ſoldier, and though you have no further buſineſs with the minutiæ of it, without doubt you ſtill find the knowledge of them uſeful to you: believe me, they may be uſeful *here*; and you will pardon me, I hope, if I wiſh to ſee you a Martinet in the kennel as well as in the field. Orders given without ſkill are ſeldom well obeyed, and where the maſter is either ignorant, or inattentive, the ſervant will be idle.

I alſo wiſh that, contrary to the uſual practice in building kennels, you would have three doors; two in the front, and one in the back; the laſt to have a lattice-window in it, with a wooden ſhutter, which is conſtantly to be kept cloſed when the hounds are in, except in ſummer, when it ſhould be left open all the day. This door anſwers two very neceſſary purpoſes: it gives an opportunity of carrying out the ſtraw when the lodging-room is cleaned, and as it is oppoſite to the window, will be a means to let in a thorough air, which will greatly contribute to keep it ſweet and wholeſome. The other doors will be of uſe in drying the room, when the hounds are out; and as one is to be kept ſhut, and the other hooked back, (allowing juſt room for a dog to paſs) they are not liable to any objection. The great window in the centre ſhould have a folding-ſhutter; half, or the whole of which, may be ſhut at nights, according to the weather; and your kennels by that means may be kept warm or cool, juſt as you pleaſe to have them. The two great lodging-rooms are exactly alike, and as each has a court belonging to it, are diſtinct kennels, ſituated at the oppoſite ends of the building; in the centre of which is the boiling-houſe and feeding-yard; and on each ſide a leſſer kennel, either for hounds that are drafted off, hounds that are ſick or lame, or for any other purpoſe, as occaſion may require. At the back

of

of which, as they are but half the depth of the two great kennels, are places for coals, &c. for the uſe of the kennel. There is alſo a ſmall building in the rear for hot bitches. The floors of the inner courts, like thoſe of the lodging-rooms, are bricked and ſloped towards the centre: and a channel of water, brought in by a leaden pipe, runs through the middle of them. In the centre of each court is a well, large enough to dip a bucket to clean the kennels; this muſt be faced with ſtone, or it will be often out of repair. In the feeding-yard it ſhould have a wooden cover.

The benches, which muſt be open to let the urine through, ſhould have hinges and hooks in the wall, that they may fold up, for the greater convenience in waſhing out the kennel; they ſhould alſo be made as low as poſſible, that a hound, when he is tired, may have no difficulty in jumping up; and at no time may be able to creep under:* let me add, that the boiler ſhould be of caſt iron.

* Benches cannot be too low:—If, owing to the ſmallneſs of the hound, it ſhould be difficult to render them low enough, a projecting ledge will anſwer the ſame purpoſe, and the benches may be boarded at bottom to prevent the hound from creeping under.

The reſt of the kennel conſiſts of a large court in front, which is alſo bricked, having a graſs-court adjoining, and a little brook running through the middle of it. The earth that was taken out of it is thrown up into a mount, where the hounds in ſummer delight to ſit. This court is planted round with trees, and has, beſides, a lime tree, and ſome horſe chefnut trees near the middle of it, for the ſake of ſhade. A high pale incloſes the whole; part of which, to the height of about four feet, is cloſe; the other open; the interſtices are about two inches wide. The graſs-court is pitched near the pale, to prevent the hounds from ſcratching out. If you cannot gueſs the intention of the poſts which you ſee in the courts, there is ſcarcely an inn window on any road, where the following line will not let you into the ſecret:

"So dogs will p— where dogs have p—d before."

This is done to ſave the trees, to which the urinary ſalts are prejudicial. If they be at firſt backward in coming to them, bind ſome ſtraw round the bottom, and rub it with galbanum. The brook in the graſs-court may ſerve as a ſtew: your fiſh will be very ſafe.*

* It may alſo be uſed as a cold bath for ſuch hounds as ſtand in need of it. For lameneſs in the ſtifle, and for ſtrains, it will be found of ſervice.

At

At the back of the kennel is a houſe, thatched and furzed up on the ſides, big enough to contain at leaſt a load of ſtraw. Here ſhould be a pit ready to receive the dung, and a gallows for the fleſh. The gallows ſhould have a thatched roof, and a circular board at the poſts of it, to prevent vermin from climbing up. If you can incloſe a piece of ground adjoining to your kennel, for ſuch dog horſes as may be brought to you alive, it will be of great uſe, as it might be dangerous to turn them out where other horſes go; for you may not always be able to diſcover their diſorders. *Hither* you may alſo bring your hounds, after they have been fed, to empty themſelves; *here* you will have more opportunities of ſeeing them than in the kennel, and will be enabled, therefore, to make your draft for the next day with greater accuracy.

A ſtove, I believe, is made uſe of in ſome kennels; but where the feeder is a good one, a mop, properly uſed, will render it unneceſſary. I have a little hay-rick in the graſs-yard, which, I think, is of uſe to keep the hounds clean and fine in their coats; you will find them frequently rubbing themſelves againſt it: the ſhade of it alſo is uſeful to them in ſummer. If ticks at any time be troubleſome in your kennel, let the walls of it be well waſhed; if that ſhould

not deſtroy them, the walls muſt then be white-waſhed.

In the ſummer when you do not hunt, one kennel will be ſufficient; the other then may be ſet apart for the young hounds, which ſhould alſo have the graſs-court adjoining to it. It is beſt at that time of the year to keep them ſeparate, and it prevents many accidents which otherwiſe might happen; nor ſhould they be put together till the hunting ſeaſon begins.* If your hounds be very quarrelſome, the feeder may ſleep in a cot, in the kennel adjoining; and if they be well chaſtiſed at the firſt quarrel, his voice will be ſufficient to ſettle all their differences afterwards.† Cloſe to the door of the kennel, let there be always a quantity of little ſwitches, which three narrow boards, nailed to one of the poſts, will eaſily contain.‡

* The dogs and the bitches may alſo be kept ſeparate from each other during the ſummer months, where there are conveniences for it.

† In a kennel in Oxfordſhire the feeder pulls a bell, which the hounds underſtand the meaning of; it ſilences them immediately, and ſaves him the trouble of getting out of his bed.

‡ When hounds are perfectly obedient, whips are no longer neceſſary; ſwitches, in my opinion, are preferable. The whips I uſe are coach whips three feet long, the thong half the length of the crop. They are more handy than horſe whips, correct the hounds as well, and hurt them leſs.

My

My kennel is clofe to the road-fide, but it was unavoidable. This is the reafon why my front pale is clofe, and only the fide ones open; it is a great fault: avoid it if you can, and your hounds will be the quieter.

Upon looking over my letter, I find I begin recommending, with Mr. Somervile, a high fituation for the kennel, and afterwards talk of a brook running through the middle of it; I am afraid that you will not be able to unite thefe two advantages; in which cafe, without doubt, water fhould be preferred: the mount I have mentioned will anfwer all the purpofes of an eminence: befides, there fhould be moveable ftages on wheels for the hounds to lie upon; at any rate, however, let your foil be a dry one.

You will think, perhaps, my lodging-rooms higher than is neceffary. I know they are confiderably higher than is ufual; the intention of which is, to give more air to the hounds; and I have not the leaft doubt that they are the better for it.—I will no longer perfecute you with this unentertaining fubject, but take my leave.

[Mr. Beckford has here pointed out with much exactnefs the method of erecting a KENNEL.—

The

The editor of the preſent edition, by way of further illuſtration, concludes the work with a deſcription of thoſe of the greateſt celebrity in the kingdom, accompanied with four beautiful and picturesque views of them.]

LET-

LETTER III.

I BEGIN this letter with aſſuring you that I have done with the *kennel:* without doubt, you will think I had need. If I have made even the name frightful to you, comfort yourſelf with the thoughts that it will not appear again.

Your criticiſm on my ſwitches I think unjuſt. You tell me ſelf-defence would of courſe make you take that precaution—do you always walk with a whip in your hand, or do you think that a walking ſtick, which may be a good thing to knock a dog on the head with, would be equally proper to correct him ſhould he be too familiar? You forget, however, to put a better ſubſtitute in the room of them.—

You deſire to know, what kind of hound I would recommend: As you mention not for any particular chace, or country, I underſtand you generally; and ſhall anſwer, that I moſt approve of hounds of the middle ſize. I believe all animals of that deſcription are ſtrongeſt, and beſt able to endure fatigue. In the height, as well as the colour of hounds, moſt ſportſmen have their prejudices; but in their ſhape at leaſt, I think they muſt all agree. I know ſportſmen, who boldly affirm

affirm, that a ſmall hound will oftentimes beat a large one; that he will climb hills better, and go through cover quicker;—whilſt others are not leſs ready to aſſert, that a large hound will make his way in any country, will get better through the dirt than a ſmall one; and that no fence, however high, can ſtop him.—You have now three opinions; and I adviſe you to adopt that which ſuits your country beſt: there is, however, a certain ſize, beſt adapted for buſineſs; which I take to be that between the two extremes; and I will venture to ſay, that ſuch hounds will not ſuffer themſelves to be diſgraced in any country. Somervile, I find, is of the ſame opinion.——

—— —— —— "But here a mean
Obſerve, nor the large hound prefer, of ſize
Gigantic; he in the thick-woven covert
Painfully tugs, or in the thorny brake
Torn and embarraſs'd bleeds: but if too ſmall,
The pigmy brood in every furrow ſwims;
Moil'd in clogging clay, panting they lag
Behind inglorious; or elſe ſhivering creep,
Benumb'd and faint, beneath the ſhelt'ring thorn.
For hounds of middle ſize, active and ſtrong,
Will better anſwer all thy various ends,
And crown thy pleaſing labours with ſucceſs."

I perfectly agree with you, that to look well, they ſhould be all nearly of a ſize; and, I even think, they ſhould all look of the ſame family.—

"Facies non omnibus una,
Nec diverſa tamen, qualem decet eſſe ſororum."

If

If handſome withall, they are then perfect. With regard to their being ſizeable, what Somervile ſays, is ſo much in your own way, that I ſhall ſend it you.—

" As ſome brave captain, curious and exact,
By his fix'd ſtandard forms in equal ranks
His gay battalion, as one man they move
Step after ſtep, their ſize the ſame, their arms
Far-gleaming, dart the ſame united blaze:
Reviewing generals his merit own;
How regular! how juſt! and all his cares
Are well repaid, if mighty GEORGE approve.
So model thou thy pack, if honour touch
Thy generous ſoul, and the world's juſt applauſe."

There are neceſſary points in the ſhape of a hound, which ought always to be attended to by a ſportſman; for, if he be not of a perfect ſymmetry, he will neither run faſt, nor bear much work: he has much to undergo, and ſhould have ſtrength proportioned to it.—Let his legs be ſtraight as arrows; his feet round, and not too large; his ſhoulders back; his breaſt rather wide than narrow; his cheſt deep; his back broad; his head ſmall; his neck thin; his tail thick and bruſhy; if he carry it well, ſo much the better: This laſt point, however trifling it may appear to you, gave riſe to a very odd queſtion: A gentleman, (not much acquainted with hounds) as we were hunting together the other day, ſaid, " I

" obſerve, Sir, that ſome of your dogs tails ſtand " up, and ſome hang down; pray which do you " reckon *the beſt hounds?*"—Such young hounds as are out at the elbows, and ſuch as are weak from the knee to the foot, ſhould never be taken into the pack.

I find that I have mentioned a ſmall head, as one of the neceſſary requiſites of a hound; but you will underſtand it as relative to *beauty only*; for as to *goodneſs*, I believe large-headed hounds are in no wiſe inferior. Somervile, in his deſcription of a perfect hound, makes no mention of the head, leaving the ſize of it to Phidias to determine; he therefore muſt have thought it of little conſequence. I ſend you his words.—

— — — " See there with countenance blythe,
And with a courtly grin, the fawning hound
Salutes thee cow'ring, his wide-op'ning noſe
Upwards he curls, and his large ſloe-black eyes
Melt in ſoft blandiſhments, and humble joy;
His gloſſy ſkin, or yellow-pied, or blue,
In lights or ſhades by nature's pencil drawn,
Reflects the various tints; his ears and legs
Fleckt here and there in gay enamel'd pride,
Rival the ſpeckled part; his ruſh-grown tail
O'er his broad back bends in an ample arch;
On ſhoulders clean, upright and firm he ſtands;
His round cat foot, ſtraight hams, and wide-ſpread thighs,
And his low dropping cheſt, confeſs his ſpeed,
His ſtrength, his wind, or on the ſteepy hill,

Or

Or far extended plain; in every part
So well proportion'd, that the nicer ſkill
Of Phidias himſelf can't blame thy choice.
Of ſuch compoſe thy pack.——

The colour, I think of little moment; and am of opinion, with our friend Foote, reſpecting his negro friend, that a good dog, like a good candidate, cannot be of a bad colour.

Men are too apt to be prejudiced by the ſort of hound they themſelves have been moſt accuſtomed to. Thoſe who have been uſed to the ſharp-noſed fox-hound, will hardly allow a large-headed hound to *be* a fox-hound; yet they both equally are.—Speed and beauty are the chief excellencies of the one; whilſt ſtoutneſs and tenderneſs of noſe in hunting,* are characteriſtic of the other. I could tell you, that I have ſeen very good ſport with very unhandſome packs, conſiſting of hounds of various ſizes, differing from one another as much in ſhape and look, as in their colour; nor could there be traced the leaſt ſign of conſanguinity amongſt them: conſidered ſeparately, the hounds were good; as a pack of hounds they were not to be commended; nor would you be ſatisfied with any thing that looks ſo very incom-

* Il paroit que la fineſſe de l'odorat, dans les chiens, dépend de la groſſeur plus que de la longueur du muſeau.

BUFFON.

plete.—You will find nothing ſo eſſential to your ſport, as, that your hounds ſhould run well together; nor can this end be better attained, than by confining yourſelf, as near as you can to thoſe of the ſame ſort, ſize, and ſhape.

A great excellence in a pack of hounds is the head they carry; and that pack may be ſaid to go the faſteſt, that can run ten miles the ſooneſt; notwithſtanding the hounds, ſeparately, may not run ſo faſt as many others. A pack of hounds, conſidered in a collective body, go faſt in proportion to the excellence of their noſes, and the head they carry; as that traveller generally gets ſooneſt to his journey's end, who ſtops leaſt upon the road.——Some hounds that I have hunted with, would creep all through the ſame hole, though they might have leapt the hedge, and would follow one another in a ſtring, as true as a team of cart-horſes.—I had rather ſee them, like the horſes of the ſun, *all a-breaſt*.

A friend of mine killed thirty-ſeven brace of foxes in one ſeaſon: twenty-nine of the foxes were killed without any intermiſſion. I muſt tell you at the ſame time, that they were killed with hounds bred from a pack of harriers; nor had they, I believe, a ſingle ſkirter belonging to them. There is a pack now in my neighbourhood of all ſorts and ſizes, which ſeldom miſs a fox; when they

they run, there is a long ſtring of them, and every fault is hit off by an old ſouthern hound. However, out of the laſt eighteen foxes they hunted, they killed ſeventeen; and I have no doubt, that as they become more complete, more foxes will eſcape from them. Packs which are compoſed of hounds of various kinds, ſeldom run well together, nor do their tongues harmonize; yet they generally, I think, kill moſt foxes; but unleſs I like their ſtyle of killing them, whatever may be their ſucceſs, I cannot be completely ſatisfied. I once aſked the famous Will Crane, how his hounds behaved—"*very well, Sir,*" he reply'd; "*they never come to a fault, but they ſpread like a* "*ſky rocket.*"—Thus it ſhould always be.

A famous ſportſman aſked a gentleman what he thought of his hounds.---"Your pack is com- "poſed, Sir," ſaid he, "of dogs which any other "man would *hang*;---they are all *ſkirters.*"--- This was taken as a compliment.---However, think not that I recommend it to you as ſuch; for though I am a great advocate for ſtyle in the killing of a fox, I never forgive a profeſſed ſkirter; where game is plenty, they are always changing, and are the loſs of more foxes than they kill.

You aſk me, how many hounds you ought to keep? It is a queſtion not eaſy to anſwer—from

twenty to thirty couple, are as many, I think, as you ſhould ever take into the field. The propriety of any number muſt depend upon the ſtrength of your pack, and the country in which you are to hunt: the quantity of hounds neceſſary to furniſh that number for a whole ſeaſon, muſt alſo depend on the country *where* you hunt; as ſome countries lame hounds more than others. The taking out too many hounds, Mr. Somervile very properly calls *an uſeleſs incumbrance*. It is not ſo material what the number is, as it is that all your hounds ſhould be ſteady, and as nearly as poſſible of equal ſpeed.

When packs are very large, the hounds are ſeldom ſufficiently hunted to be good. Few people chooſe to hunt every day; and if they did, it is not likely the weather in winter would give them leave. You would always be obliged therefore, either to take out a very large pack, or a great number of hounds muſt be left behind: in the firſt caſe, too many hounds in the field would probably ſpoil your ſport; in the ſecond, hounds that remain long without work, always get out of wind, and oftentimes become riotous. About forty couple, I think, will beſt anſwer your purpoſe. Forty couple of hunting hounds will enable you to hunt three, or even four times in a week; and I will venture to ſay, will kill more foxes than a greater

greater number. Hounds, to be good, muſt be kept conſtantly hunted; and if I ſhould hereafter ſay, a fox-hound ſhould be above his work, it will not be a young fox-hound I ſhall mean; for he ſhould ſeldom be left at home, as long as he is able to hunt: the old and lame, and ſuch as are low in fleſh, you ſhould leave; and ſuch as you are ſure idleneſs cannot ſpoil.

It is a great fault to keep too many old hounds. If you chooſe that your hounds ſhould run well together, you ſhould not continue *any*, longer than five or ſix ſeaſons; though there is no ſaying with certainty, what number of ſeaſons a hound will laſt. Like us, ſome of them have better conſtitutions than others, and conſequently will bear more work; and the duration of all bodies depends as much on the uſage that they may meet with as on the materials of which they are made.

You aſk, whether you had not better buy a complete pack at once, than be at the trouble of breeding one? Certainly you had, if ſuch an opportunity ſhould offer. It ſometimes happens, that hounds are to be bought for leſs money than you could breed them. The gentleman to whom my houſe formerly belonged, had a moſt famous pack of fox-hounds. His goods, &c. were appraiſed and ſold; which, when the appraiſer had

done, he was put in mind of the hounds.—" Well, gentlemen," ſaid he, " what ſhall I appraiſe *them* " *at? a ſhilling a-piece?*—" Oh! it is too little!" " is it ſo?" ſaid the appraiſer; " why it is more " than *I would give for them, I aſſure you.*"——

Hounds are not bought ſo cheap *at Tatterſall's.*

LET-

LETTER IV.

I AM glad that you do not diſapprove the advantage I have made of my friend Somervile. I was doubtful whether you would not have cenſured me for it, and have compared me to ſome of thoſe would-be fine gentlemen, who, to cut a figure, tack an embroidered edging on their coarſe cloth.—I ſhall be cautious, however, of abuſing your indulgence, and ſhall not quote my poet oftener than is neceſſary; but where we think the ſame thing, you had better take it in his words than mine.—I ſhall now proceed to the feeding of hounds, and management of them in the kennel.

A good feeder is an eſſential part of your eſtabliſhment.—Let him be young and active; and have the reputation at leaſt, of not diſliking work: he ſhould be good-tempered, for the ſake of the animals entruſted to his care; and who, however they may be treated by him, cannot complain. He ſhould be one who will ſtrictly obey any orders that you may give; as well with regard to the management, as to the breeding of the hounds; and ſhould not be ſolely under the direction of your huntſman. It is true I have ſeen it otherwiſe: I have known a pack of hounds belong, as it were, entirely to the huntſman—a

ſiable of horſes belong to the groom—whilſt the maſter had little more power in the direction of either, than a perfect ſtranger.—This you will not ſuffer. I know you chooſe to keep the ſupreme command in your own hands; and though you permit your ſervants to remonſtrate, you do not ſuffer them to diſobey.—He who allows a huntſman to manage his hounds without controul, literally keeps them for the huntſman's amuſement.——You deſire to know what is required of a feeder;—I will tell you as well as I can.

As our ſport depends entirely on that exquiſite ſenſe of ſmelling, ſo peculiar to the hound, care muſt be taken to preſerve it; and cleanlineſs is the ſureſt means. The keeping your kennel *ſweet* and *clean* cannot therefore be too much recommended to the feeder; nor ſhould you on any account admit the leaſt deviation from it. If he ſees *you* exact, he will be ſo himſelf.—This is a very eſſential part of his buſineſs.——The boiling for the hounds; mixing of the meat; and getting it ready for them at proper hours, your huntſman will of courſe take care of; nor is it ever likely to be forgotten. I muſt caution you not to let your dogs eat their meat too hot; for I have known it attended with bad conſequences; you ſhould alſo order it to be mixed up as thick as poſſible.—When the feeder has cleaned his kennel in the morning, and prepared his meat, it is

uſual

uſual for him on hunting-days, (in an eſtabliſhment like your's) to exerciſe the horſes of the huntſman and whipper-in; and in many ſtables it is alſo the feeder who looks after the huntſman's horſe when he comes in from hunting, whilſt the huntſman feeds the hounds. When the hounds are not out, the huntſman, and whipper-in, of courſe, will exerciſe their own horſes; and that day the feeder has little elſe to mind but the cleaning of his kennel. Every poſſible contrivance has been attended to in the deſcription I ſent you, to make that part of his work eaſy; all the courts, except the graſs-court, being bricked, and ſloped on purpoſe. There is alſo plenty of water, without any trouble in fetching it; and a thorough air throughout the kennels, to aſſiſt in drying them again.---Should you chooſe to increaſe your number of ſervants in the ſtable, in that caſe, the buſineſs of the feeder may be confined entirely to the kennel.---There ſhould be always two to feed hounds properly; the feeder and huntſman.

Somervile ſtrongly recommends cleanlineſs in the following lines,

" O'er all let cleanlineſs preſide, no ſcraps
Beſtrew the pavement, and no half-pick'd bones,
To kindle fierce debate, or to diſguſt
That nicer ſenſe, on which the ſportſman's hope,
And all his future triumphs muſt depend.
Soon as the growling pack with eager joy

Have lapp'd their ſmoaking viands, morn or eve,
From the full ciſtern lead the ductile ſtreams,
To waſh thy court well-pav'd, nor ſpare thy pains,
For much to health will cleanlineſs avail.
Seek'ſt thou for hounds to climb the rocky ſteep,
And bruſh th' entangled covert, whoſe nice ſcent
O'er greaſy fallows, and frequented roads,
Can pick the dubious way? Baniſh far off
Each noiſome ſtench, let no offenſive ſmell
Invade thy wide incloſure, but admit
The nitrous air, and purifying breeze."

So perfectly right is the poet in this, that if you can make your kennel a viſit every day, your hounds will be the better for it. When I have been long abſent from mine, I have always perceived a difference in their looks. I ſhall now take notice of that part of the management of hounds in the kennel, which concerns the huntſman as well as the feeder.---Your huntſman muſt always attend the feeding of the hounds, which ſhould be drafted, according to the condition they are in. In all packs, ſome hounds will feed better than others; ſome there are that will do with leſs meat; and it requires a nice eye, and great attention, to keep them all in equal fleſh:---it is what diſtinguiſhes a good kennel-huntſman, and has its merit.---It is ſeldom that huntſmen give this particular all attention it deſerves: they feed their hounds in too great a hurry; and not often, I believe, take the trouble of caſting their eye over them before they begin; and

and yet, to diſtinguiſh with any nicety, the order a pack of hounds are in, and the different degrees of it, is ſurely no eaſy taſk; and to be done well, requires no ſmall degree of circumſpection: you had better not expect your huntſman to be very exact; where preciſion is required, he will moſt probably fail.

When I am preſent myſelf, I make ſeveral drafts. When my huntſman feeds them, he calls them all over by their names, letting in each hound as he is called; it has its uſe—it uſes them to their names, and teaches them to be obedient. Were it not for this, I ſhould diſapprove of it entirely; ſince it certainly requires more coolneſs and deliberation to diſtinguiſh with preciſion which are beſt entitled to precedence, than this method of feeding will admit of; and unleſs fleſh be in great plenty, thoſe that are called in laſt, may not have a taſte of it. To prevent this inconvenience, ſuch as are low in fleſh, had better be all drafted off into a ſeparate kennel;* by this means, the hounds that require *fleſh*, will all have a ſhare of it. If any be much poorer than the

* By thus ſeparating from the reſt, ſuch as are poor, you will proceed to the feeding of your hounds with more accuracy, and leſs trouble; and though they be at firſt drafted off, in the manner above deſcribed, it is ſtill meant that they ſhould be let in to feed, one by one, as they anſwer to their names; or elſe, as it will frequently happen, they may be better fed than taught.

reſt,

reſt, they ſhould be fed again—ſuch hounds cannot be fed too often. If any in the pack be too fat, *they* ſhould be draſted off, and not ſuffered to fill themſelves. The others ſhould eat what they will of the meat. The days my hounds have greens or ſulphur, they generally are let in all together; and ſuch as require *fleſh*, have it given to them afterwards. Having a good kennel-huntſman, it is not often that I take this trouble; yet I ſeldom go into my kennel, but I indulge myſelf in the pleaſure of ſeeing food given to ſuch hounds, as appear to me to be in want of it. I have been told that in one kennel in particular, the hounds are under ſuch excellent management, that they conſtantly are fed with the door of the feeding-yard open; and the rough nature of the fox-hound is changed into ſo much politeneſs, that he waits at the door, till he is invited in; and what perhaps is not leſs extraordinary, he comes out again, whether he has ſatisfied his hunger or not, the moment he is deſired—The effect of diſcipline. However, as this is not abſolutely neceſſary, and hounds may be good without it; and as I well know your other amuſements will not permit you to attend to ſo much manœuvring, I would by no means wiſh you to give ſuch power to your huntſman. The buſineſs would be injudiciouſly done, and moſt probably would not anſwer your expectations—The hound would be tormented *mal-à-propos*;—an animal ſo little deſerving

ing of it from our hands, that I ſhould be ſorry to diſturb his hours of repoſe by unneceſſary ſeverity. You will perceive it is a nice affair; and I aſſure you I know no huntſman who is equal to it. The gentleman who has carried this matter to its moſt perfection, has attended to it regularly himſelf; has conſtantly acted on fixed principles, from which he has never deviated; and I believe has ſucceeded to the very utmoſt of his wiſhes.—All hounds, (and more eſpecially young ones) ſhould be called over often in the kennel;* and moſt huntſmen practiſe this leſſon, as they feed their hounds.—They flog them while they feed them—and if they have not always a belly-full one way, they ſeldom fail to have it the other.†

* There is no better method of teaching a hound obedience; when you call him, he ſhould approach you; when you touch him with your ſtick, he ſhould follow you any where.

† "Thus we find, eat or not eat, work or play, whipping is always in ſeaſon." (vide Monthly Review) The critic treats this paſſage with great ſeverity. He would have ſpared it, without doubt, had he underſtood that it was introduced on purpoſe to correct the abuſe of kennel diſcipline. Unacquainted, as the Reviewer ſeems to be with the ſubject, it is no wonder that he ſhould miſtake a meaning, perhaps rather unfairly ſtated by the author, in favor of that humanity he is ſuppoſed ſo much to want.—Hounds are called in to feed, one by one, and ſuch only are corrected, as come uncalled for: nor is correction unjuſt, ſo long as it ſhall fall on the diſobedient only. Obedience is an uſeful leſſon, and though it cannot be *practiſed* too often, it ſhould be *taught* them at a more idle time.

It

It is not, however, my intention to oppoſe ſo general a practice, in which there may be ſome utility; I ſhall only obſerve, that it ſhould be uſed with diſcretion, leſt the whip ſhould fall heavily in the kennel on ſuch as never deſerve it in the field.

My hounds are generally fed about eleven o'clock;* and when I am preſent myſelf, I take the ſame opportunity to make my draft for the next day's hunting. I ſeldom, when I can help it, leave this to my huntſman, though it is neceſſary he ſhould be preſent when the draft is made, that he may know what hounds he has out.

* Having found it neceſſary to alter my method of feeding hounds, it may not be improper to take notice of it here. They are now fed at eight o'clock, inſtead of eleven. Their firſt feed is of barley and oatmeal mixed, an equal quantity of each. Fleſh is afterwards mixed up with the remainder for ſuch hounds as are poor, who are then drafted off into another kennel, and let in to feed all together. When the fleſh is all eaten, the pack are again let in, and are by this means cheated into a ſecond appetite. At three o'clock thoſe that are to hunt the next day are drafted into the hunting kennel; they are then let into the feeding-yard, where a ſmall quantity of oatmeal (about three buckets) is prepared for them; not mixed up thin, as mentioned in page 45, but mixed up thick. Such as are tender, or bad feeders, have a handful of boiled fleſh given to them afterwards. When they are not to hunt the next day, they are fed once only—at eleven o'clock.

It is a bad cuſtom to uſe hounds to the boiling-houſe; it is apt to make them nice, and may prevent them from ever eating the kennel-meat. What they have, ſhould always be given them in the feeding-yard, and for the ſame reaſon, though it be fleſh, it ſhould have ſome meal mixed with it.

If your hounds be low in fleſh, and have far to go to cover, they may all have a little thin lap again in the evening; but this ſhould never be done if you hunt early.* Hounds, I think, ſhould be ſharp-ſet before hunting; they run the better for it.†

If many of your hounds, after long reſt, ſhould be too fat,‡ by feeding them for a day or two on thinner meat than you give the others, it will be found, I believe, to anſwer better than the uſual method of giving them the ſame meat, and ſtinting them in the quantity of it.

* Hounds that are tender feeders cannot be fed too late, or with meat too good.

† Vid. Note, page 44.

‡ Hounds that reſt, ſhould not be ſuffered to become fat.—It would be accounting very badly for the fatneſs of a hound, to ſay he is fat, becauſe he has not worked lately, ſince he ought to have been kept lower on that account.

If

If your hounds be not walked out, they ſhould be turned into the graſs-court to empty themſelves after they have been fed, it will contribute not a little to the cleanlineſs of the kennel.

I have heard that it is a cuſtom in ſome kennels to ſhut up the hounds for a couple of hours after they come in from hunting, before they are fed; and that other hounds are ſhut up with them, to lick them clean.* *My* uſual way is to ſend on a whipper-in before them, that the meat may be gotten ready againſt they come, and they are fed *immediately:* having filled their bellies, they are naturally inclined to reſt. If they have had a ſevere day, they are fed again ſome hours after.† As to the method above-mentioned, it may be more convenient perhaps to have the hounds all together: but I cannot think it neceſſary, for the reaſon that is given; and I ſhould apprehend a parcel of idle hounds, ſhut up amongſt ſuch as are tired and inclined to reſt,

* If hounds be ſhut up, as ſoon as they come in from hunting, they will not readily leave the benches afterwards; for if they be much fatigued, they will prefer reſt to food.

† My hounds are generally fed twice on the days they hunt. Some will feed better the ſecond time than the firſt; beſides, the turning them out of the lodging-houſe refreſhes them; they ſtretch their limbs; empty their bodies; and, as during this time their kennel is cleaned out, and litter ſhaken up, they ſettle themſelves better on the benches afterwards.

would

would diſturb them more than all their licking would make amends for. When you feed them twice, keep them ſeparate till after the ſecond feeding; it would be ſtill better were they not put together till the next morning.

Every day, when hounds come in from hunting, they ought carefully to be looked over, and invalids ſhould immediately be taken care of.* Such as have fore feet, ſhould have them well waſhed out with brine, or pot liquor. If you permit thoſe hounds that are unable to work to run about your houſe, it will be of great ſervice to them. Such as are ill, or lame, ought to be turned out into another kennel; it will be more eaſy to give them *there* the attention they may require, both as to medicine and food.

Every Thurſday during the hunting ſeaſon, my hounds have one pound of ſulphur given them in their meat; and every Sunday throughout the year they have plenty of greens boiled up with it: I find it better to fix the days, as it is then leſs liable to be forgotten. I uſed to give them the waſh from the kitchen, but I found it

* Hounds that come home lame ſhould not be taken out the next hunting day, ſince they may appear ſound without being ſo. At the beginning of the ſeaſon the eyes of hounds are frequently injured; ſuch hounds ſhould not be hunted, and if their eyes continue weak they ſhould loſe a little blood.

made them thirſty, and it is now omitted in the hunting ſeaſon. A horſe freſh killed is an excellent meal for hounds after a very hard day; but they ſhould not hunt till the third day after it. The bones broken are good food for poor hounds, as there is great proof in them. Sheep trotters are very ſweet food, and will be of ſervice when horſe-fleſh is not to be had. Bullocks' bellies may be alſo of ſome uſe, if you can get nothing elſe. Oatmeal, I believe, makes the beſt meat for hounds; barley is certainly the cheapeſt; and in many kennels they give barley on that account; but it is heating, does not mix up ſo well, nor is there ſo much proof in it as in oatmeal. If mixed, an equal quantity of each, it will then do very well, but barley alone will not. Much alſo depends on the goodneſs of the meal itſelf, which is not often attended to. If you do not uſe your own, you ſhould buy a large quantity of it any time before harveſt, and keep it by you: there is no other certainty, I believe, of having it *old*; which is more material than, perhaps, you are aware of. I have heard that a famous Cheſhire huntſman feeds his hounds with wheat; which he has found to be the beſt food. He gives it them with the bran; it would cauſe no little diſturbance in many neighbourhoods, if other ſportſmen were to do the ſame.

I am

I am not fond of *bleeding* hounds, unleſs they want it; though it has long been a cuſtom in my kennel to *phyſic* them twice a year; after they leave off hunting, and before they begin. It is given in hot weather, and at an idle time. It cools their bodies, and without doubt is of ſervice to them. If a hound be in want of phyſic, I prefer giving it in balls.* It is more eaſy to give in this manner the quantity he may want, and you are more certain that he takes it. In many kennels, they alſo bleed them twice a year, and ſome people think that it prevents madneſs. The anointing of hounds, or *dreſſing* them, as huntſmen call it, makes them fine in their coats: it may be done twice a year, or oftner, if you find it neceſſary. As I ſhall hereafter have occaſion to write on the diſeaſes of hounds, and their cures, I will ſend you at the ſame time a receipt for this purpoſe. During the ſummer months, when my hounds do not hunt, they have ſeldom any fleſh allowed them, and are kept low, contrary, I believe, to the uſual practice of moſt kennels, where mangy hounds in ſummer are but too often ſeen. Huntſmen ſometimes content themſelves with checking this diſorder, when, with leſs trouble, perhaps, they

* One pound of antimony, four ounces of ſulphur, and ſyrup of buckthorn q. ſ. to give it the conſiſtency of a ball. Each ball weighs about ſeven drachms.

might prevent it. A regular courſe of whey and vegetables during the hot months muſt, certainly, be wholeſome, and is, without doubt, the cauſe that a mangy hound is an unuſual ſight in m kennel. Every Monday and Friday my hounds go for whey till the hunting ſeaſon begins; are kept out ſeveral hours, and are often made to ſwim through rivers during the hot weather. After the laſt phyſic, and before they begin to hunt, they are exerciſed on the turnpike road, to harden their feet, which are waſhed with ſtrong brine, as ſoon as they come in. Little ſtraw is neceſſary during the ſummer; but when they hunt they cannot have too much, or have it changed too often. In many kennels they do not boil for the hounds in ſummer, but give them meal only; in mine it is always boiled; but with this difference, that it is mixed up thin, inſtead of thick. Many give ſpurge-laurel in ſummer, boiled up in their meat; as I never uſe it, I cannot recommend it. The phyſic I give is two pounds of ſulphur, one pound of antimony, and a pint and a half of ſyrup of buckthorn, for about forty couple of hounds.* In the winter ſeaſon, let your hounds be ſhut up warm at night. If any hounds, after hunting, be miſſing, the ſtraw-houſe door ſhould be left open; and if

* Vide page 49, where it is recommended that ſuch hounds as require phyſic ſhould be phyſicked ſeparately.

they have had a hard day, it may be as well to leave ſome meat there for them.

I have inquired of my feeder, who is a good one, (and has had more experience in theſe matters than any one you perhaps may get) how he mixes up his meat. He tells me, that in his opinion, oatmeal and barley mixed, an equal quantity of each, make the beſt meat for hounds. The oatmeal he boils for half an hour, and then puts out the fire, puts the barley into the copper, and mixes both together. I aſked him why he boiled one and not the other—he told me, boiling, which made oatmeal thick, made barley thin; and that when you feed with barley only, it ſhould not be put into the copper, but be ſcalded with the liquor, and mixed up in a bucket. I find there is in my kennel a large tub on purpoſe, which contains about half a hogſhead.

You little think, perhaps, how difficult it is to be a good kennel huntſman, nor can you, as yet, know the nicety that is required to feed hounds properly. You are not aware that ſome hounds will hunt beſt when fed late; others, when fed early: that ſome ſhould have but little; that others cannot have too much. However, if your huntſman obſerve the rules I have here laid down, his hounds will not do much amiſs; but ſhould you at any time wiſh to *rencherir* upon the

matter, and feed each particular hound ſo as to make the moſt of him, you muſt learn it of a gentleman in Leiceſterſhire, to whom the noble ſcience of fox-hunting is more beholden than to any other. I ſhall myſelf ſay nothing further on the ſubject; for as your huntſman will not have the ſenſe of the gentleman I allude to, nor *you* perhaps his patience, an eaſier method I know will ſuit you beſt. I ſhall only adviſe you, while you endeavour to keep your hounds in good order, not to let them become *too fat*; it will be impoſſible for them to run, if they be. A fat alderman would cut a mighty ridiculous figure were he inclined to run a race.

LET-

LETTER V.

THERE is an active vanity in the minds of men which is favourable to improvement, and in every purſuit, while ſomething remains to be attained, ſo long will it afford amuſement; you, therefore, will find pleaſure in the breeding of hounds, in which expectation is never completely ſatisfied, and it is on the ſagacious management of this buſineſs that all your ſucceſs will depend. Is it not extraordinary that no other country ſhould equal us in this particular, and that the very hounds procured from hence ſhould degenerate in another climate?

> " In thee alone, fair land of liberty!
> Is bred the perfect hound, in ſcent and ſpeed
> As yet unrivall'd, while in other climes
> Their virtue fails, a weak degen'rate race."
>
> SOMERVILE.

Happy climate for ſportſmen! where nature ſeems as it were to give them an excluſive privilege of enjoying this diverſion. To preſerve, however, this advantage, care ſhould be taken in the breed; I ſhall, therefore, according to your deſire, ſend you ſuch rules as I obſerve myſelf. Conſider the ſize, ſhape, colour, conſtitution, and natural diſpoſition of the dog you breed from, as well as

the fineneſs of his noſe, his ſtoutneſs, and method of hunting. On no account breed from one that is not *ſtout*, that is not *tender-noſed*, or that is either a *babbler*,* or a *ſkirter*.

" Obſerve with care his ſhape, ſort, colour, ſize:
Nor will ſagacious huntſmen leſs regard
His inward habits; the vain babbler ſhun,
Ever loquacious, ever in the wrong.
His fooliſh offspring ſhall offend thy ears
With falſe alarms and loud impertinence.
Nor leſs the ſhifting cur avoid, that breaks
Illuſive from the pack; to the next hedge
Devious he ſtrays, there ev'ry muſe he tries,
If haply then he croſs the ſtreaming ſcent,
Away he flies vain-glorious; and exults
As of the pack ſupreme and in his ſpeed
And ſtrength unrivall'd. Lo! caſt far behind,
His vex'd aſſociates pant, and lab'ring ſtrain
To climb the ſteep aſcent. Soon as they reach
Th' inſulting boaſter, his falſe courage fails,
Behind he lags, doom'd to the fatal nooſe,
His maſter's hate, and ſcorn of all the field.
What can from ſuch be hop'd, but a baſe brood
Of coward curs, a frantic, vagrant race?"

SOMERVILE.

It is the judicious croſs that makes the pack complete.† The faults and imperfections in one breed,

* Babbling is one of the worſt faults that a hound can be guilty of, it is conſtantly increaſing, and is alſo catching. This fault, like many others, will ſometimes run in the blood.

† I have ſeen fox-hounds that were bred out of a Newfound-
land

breed, may be rectified from another; and if this be properly attended to, I ſee no reaſon why the breeding of hounds may not improve, till improvement can go no further. If you find a croſs hit, purſue it.* Never put an old dog to an old bitch. Be careful that they be healthy which you breed from, or you are not likely to have a healthy offſpring. Should a favourite dog ſkirt a little, put him to a thorough line-hunting bitch, and ſuch a croſs may ſucceed. My objection to the breeding from ſuch a hound is, that as ſkirting is what moſt fox-hounds acquire from practice, it had better not be made natural to them. A very famous ſportſman has told me, that he frequently breeds from brothers and ſiſters. As I ſhould be very unwilling to urge any thing in oppoſition to ſuch authority, you had better try it; and if it ſucceed in hounds, it is more I believe than it uſually does in other animals. A famous cocker aſſured a friend of mine, that the third generation (which he called

land bitch and a fox-hound dog: they are monſtrouſly ugly—are ſaid to give their tongues ſparingly, and to tire ſoon. The experiment has not ſucceeded; the croſs moſt likely to be of ſervice to a fox-hound is the beagle. I am well convinced that a handſome, bony, tender-noſed, ſtout beagle would, occaſionally, be no improper croſs for a high-bred pack of fox-hounds.

* After the firſt ſeaſon, I breed from all my young dog-hounds who have beauty and goodneſs to recommend them, to ſee what whelps they get.

a nick) he had found to ſucceed very well, but no nearer: as I have neither tried one nor the other, I cannot ſpeak with any certainty about them.

Give particular orders to your feeder to watch over the bitches with a cautious eye, and ſeparate ſuch as are going to be proud, before it be too late. The advances they make frequently portend miſchief as well as love; and, if not prevented in time, will not fail to ſet the whole kennel together by the ears, and may occaſion the death of your beſt dogs: care only can prevent it.*

" Mark well the wanton females of thy pack,
That curl their taper tails, and friſking court
Their pye-bald mates enamour'd; their red eyes
Flaſh fires impure; nor reſt, nor food they take,
Goaded by furious love. In ſep'rate cells
Confine them now, leſt bloody civil wars
Annoy thy peaceful ſtate.——" SOMERVILE.

I have known huntſmen perfectly ignorant of the breed of their hounds, from inattention in this particular; and I have alſo known many good dogs fall a ſacrifice to it.

* When the bitches are off their heat, they ſhould be ſuffered to run about the houſe a day or two before they are taken out to hunt.

The

The earlier in the year you breed the better: January, February, and March, are the beſt months. Late puppies ſeldom thrive; if you have any ſuch, put them to the beſt walks.* When the bitches begin to get big, let them not hunt any more: it proves frequently fatal to the puppies; ſometimes to the bitch herſelf; nor is it ſafe for them to remain much longer in the kennel. If one bitch have many puppies, more than ſhe can well rear, you may put ſome of them to another bitch; or if you deſtroy any of them, you may keep the beſt coloured. They ſometimes will have an extraordinary number: I have known an inſtance of one having fifteen; and a friend of mine, whoſe veracity I cannot doubt, has aſſured me that a hound in his pack brought forth ſixteen, all alive. When you breed from a very favourite ſort, and can have another bitch warded at the ſame time, it will have this advantage, it will enable you to ſave all the puppies. Give particular orders that the bitches be well fed with fleſh; they ſhould alſo have plenty of milk, nor ſhould the puppies be taken from them till they are able to take care of themſelves: they will ſoon learn to lap milk, which will relieve the mother. The bitches, when their puppies are taken away from them,

* Of the early whelps I keep five or ſix, of the late ones only two or three.

ſhould

ſhould be phyſicked; they ſhould have three purging balls given them, one every other morning, and plenty of whey the intermediate day.—If a bitch bring only one or two puppies, and you have another bitch that will take them, by putting the puppies to her, the former will be ſoon fit to hunt again; ſhe ſhould, however, be phyſicked firſt; and if her dugs be anointed with brandy and water, it will alſo be of ſervice. The diſtemper makes dreadful havoc with whelps at their walks; greatly owing, I believe, to the little care that is taken of them there. I am in doubt whether it might not be better to breed them up yourſelf, and have a kennel on purpoſe. You have a large orchard, paled in, which would ſuit them exactly; and what elſe is wanted might eaſily be obtained. There is, however, an objection that perhaps may ſtrike you—If the diſtemper once get amongſt them, they muſt all have it: yet, notwithſtanding *that*, as they will be conſtantly well fed, and will lie warm, I am confident it would be the ſaving of many lives. If you ſhould adopt this method, you muſt remember to uſe them early to go in couples; and when they become of a proper age, they muſt be walked out often: for ſhould they remain confined, they would neither have the ſhape, health, or underſtanding, which they ought to have. When I kept harriers, I bred up ſome of the puppies at a diſtant kennel; but having no ſervants

vants there to exercise them properly, I found them much inferior to such of their brethren as had the luck to survive the many difficulties and dangers they had undergone at their walks; these were afterwards equal to any thing, and afraid of nothing; whilst those that had been nursed with so much care were weakly and timid, and had every disadvantage attending private education.

I have often heard as an excuse for hounds not hunting a cold scent, that they were *too high bred*; I confess, I know not what that means: but this I know, that hounds are frequently *too ill bred* to be of any service. It is judgment in the breeder, and patience afterwards in the huntsman, that make them hunt.

Young hounds are commonly named when first put out, and sometimes indeed ridiculously enough; nor is it easy, when you breed many, to find suitable or harmonious names for all; particularly as it is usual to name all the whelps of one litter with the same letter, which (to be systematically done) should also be the initial letter of the dog that got them, or the bitch that bred them. A baronet of my acquaintance, a literal observer of the above rule, sent three young hounds of one litter to a friend, all their names beginning, as *he said*, with the letter G— *Gowler*, *Govial*, and *Galloper*.

It

It is indeed of little conſequence what huntſmen call their hounds; yet if you diſlike an unmeaning name, would it not be as well to leave the naming of them till they are brought home? They ſoon learn their names, and a ſhorter liſt would do. Damons and Delias would not then be neceſſary; nor need the ſacred names of Titus and Trajan be thus degraded. It is true, there are many odd names which cuſtom authoriſes; yet I cannot think, becauſe ſome drunken fellow or other has chriſtened his dog Tipler, or Tapſter, that there is the leaſt reaſon to follow the example. Pipers and fiddlers, for the ſake of their muſic, we will not object to; but tiplers and tapſters your kennel will be much better without.

However extraordinary you may think it, I can aſſure you I have myſelf ſeen a *white* Gipſey, a *grey* Ruby, a *dark* Snowball, and a Blueman of any colour but *blue*. The huntſman of a friend of mine being aſked the name of a young hound, ſaid, it was *Lyman*. "Lyman!" ſaid his maſter; "why, James, what does Lyman "mean?"—"Lord, Sir!" replied James, "what "does *any thing mean?*"—A farmer, who bred up two couple of hounds for me, whoſe names were Merryman and Merrylaſs, Ferryman and Furious, upon my inquiring after them, gave this account: "Merryman and Merrylaſs are both "dead,

" dead, but Ferryman, Sir, is a fine dog, and " ſo is *Ferrylaſs*." Madam, an uſual name among hounds, is often, I believe, very diſreſpectfully treated: I had an inſtance of it the other day in my own huntſman, who, after having rated Madam a great deal, to no purpoſe, (who, to confeſs the truth, was much given to do otherwiſe than ſhe ſhould) flew into a violent paſſion, and hallooed out, as loud as he could— " *Madam, you d—d bitch!*"

As you deſire a liſt of names, I will ſend you one. I have endeavoured to claſs them according to their different genders; but you will perceive ſome names may be uſed indiſcriminately for either. It is not uſual, I believe, to call a pointer Ringwood, or a greyhound Harmony; and ſuch names as are expreſſive of ſpeed, ſtrength, courage, or other natural qualities in a hound, I think moſt applicable to them. Damons and Delias I have left out; the bold Thunder and the briſk Lightning, if you pleaſe, may ſupply their places; unleſs you prefer the method of the gentleman I told you of, who intends naming his hounds from the p—ge; and, I ſuppoſe, he at the ſame time will not be unmindful of the p—y c——rs.

If you mark the whelps in the ſide, (which is called branding them) when they are firſt put out,

out, (or perhaps it may be better done after they have been out ſome time) it may prevent their being ſtolen.

When young hounds are firſt taken in, they ſhould be kept ſeparate from the pack; and as it will happen at a time of the year, when there is little or no hunting, you may eaſily give them up one of the kennels and graſs-court adjoining. Their play ends frequently in a battle; it therefore is leſs dangerous where all are equally matched. What Somervile ſays on this ſubject is exceedingly beautiful:

" But here with watchful and obſervant eye,
Attend their frolics, which too often end
In bloody broils and death. High o'er thy head
Wave thy reſounding whip, and with a voice
Fierce-menacing o'er-rule the ſtern debate,
And quench their kindling rage; for oft in ſport
Begun, combat enſues, growling they ſnarl,
Then on their haunches rear'd, rampant they ſeize
Each other's throats, with teeth, and claws, in gore
Beſmear'd, they wound, they tear, till on the ground,
Panting, half-dead the conquer'd champion lies:
Then ſudden all the baſe ignoble crowd
Loud-clam'ring ſeize the helpleſs worried wretch,
And thirſting for his blood, drag diff'rent ways
His mangled carcaſs on th' enſanguin'd plain.
O breaſts of pity void! t' oppreſs the weak,
To point your vengeance at the friendleſs head,
And with one mutual cry inſult the fall'n!
Emblem too juſt of man's degenerate race."

If

If you find that they take a diſlike to any particular hound, the ſafeſt way will be to remove him; or it is probable they will kill him at laſt. When a feeder hears the hounds quarrel in the kennel, he halloos to them to ſtop them. He then goes in amongſt them, and flogs every hound he can come near. How much more reaſonable, as well as more efficacious, it would be, were he to ſee which were the combatants before he ſpeaks to them. Puniſhment would then fall as it ought, on the guilty only. In all packs there are ſome hounds more quarrelſome than the reſt; and it is to them we owe all the miſchief that is done. If you find chaſtiſement cannot quiet them, it may be prudent to break their holders; for ſince they are not neceſſary to them for the meat they have to eat, they are not likely to ſerve them in any good purpoſe.

Young hounds ought to be fed twice a day, as they ſeldom take kindly at firſt to the kennel-meat, and the diſtemper is moſt apt to ſeize them at this time. It is better not to round them till they are thoroughly ſettled; nor ſhould it be put off till the hot weather, for then they would bleed too much.* If any of the dogs be thin over

* It may be better, perhaps, to round them at their quarters, when about ſix months old; ſhould it be done ſooner, it would make their ears tuck up. The tailing of them is uſually done before

over the back, or any more quarrelſome than the reſt, it will be of uſe to cut them: I alſo ſpay ſuch bitches as I think I ſhall not want to breed from; they are more uſeful, are ſtouter, and are always in better order: beſides, it is abſolutely neceſſary if you hunt late in the ſpring; or your pack will be very ſhort for want of it. It may be right to tell you, that the latter operation does not always ſucceed, it will be neceſſary, therefore, to employ a ſkilful perſon, and one on whom you can depend; for if it be ill done, though they cannot have puppies, they will go to heat notwithſtanding, of which I have known many inſtances, and that, I apprehend, would not anſwer your purpoſe at any rate. They ſhould be kept low for ſeveral days before the operation is performed, and muſt be fed on thin meat for ſome time after.

You aſk me what number of young hounds you ſhould breed to keep up your ſtock? it is a queſtion, I believe, no man can anſwer. It depends altogether on contingencies. The deficiencies of one year muſt be ſupplied the next. I ſhould apprehend from thirty to thirty-five couple

before they are put out; it might be better, perhaps, to leave it till they are taken in. Dogs muſt not be rounded at the time they have the diſtemper upon them; the loſs of blood would weaken them too much.

of

of old hounds, and from eight to twelve couple of young ones would, one year with another, beſt ſuit an eſtabliſhment which you do not intend ſhould much exceed forty couple. This rule you ſhould at the ſame time obſerve—never to part with an uſeful old hound, or enter an unhandſome young one.

I would adviſe you in breeding, to be as little prejudiced as poſſible in favour of your own ſort; but ſend your beſt bitches to the beſt dogs, be they where they may. Thoſe who breed only a few hounds may by chance have a good pack, whilſt thoſe who breed a great many (if at the ſame time they underſtand the buſineſs) reduce it to a certainty. You ſay, you wiſh to ſee your pack as complete as Mr. Meynell's: believe me, my good friend, unleſs you were to breed as many hounds, it is totally impoſſible. Thoſe who breed the greateſt number of hounds have a right to expect the beſt pack; at leaſt it muſt be their own fault if they have it not.

NAMES OF HOUNDS.

A. *dogs.*

ABLE
Actor
Adamant
Adjutant
Agent
Aider
Aimwell
Amorous
Antic
Anxious
Arbiter
Archer
Ardent
Ardor
Arrogant
Arſenic
Artful
Artiſt
Atlas
Atom
Auditor
Augur
Awful

A. *bitches.*

Accurate
Active
Actreſs
Affable
Agile
Airy
Amity
Angry
Animate
Artifice
Audible

B. *dogs.*

Bachelor
Banger
Baffler
Barbarous
Bellman
Bender
Blaſter
Bluecap
Blueman
Bluſter
Boaſter
Boiſterous
Bonnyface
Bouncer
Bowler
Bravo
Bragger
Brawler
Brazen
Brilliant
Bruſher
Brutal
Burſter
Buſtler

B. *bitches.*

Baneful
Baſhful
Bauble
Beauteous
Beauty
Beldam
Belmaid
Blameleſs
Blithſome
Blowzy
Bluebell
Bluemaid
Bonny
Bonnybell
Bonnylaſs
Boundleſs
Bravery
Brevity
Brimſtone
Buſy
Buxom

C. *dogs.*

C. *dogs.*

Caitiff
Capital
Captain
Captor
Carol
Carver
Caſter
Caſtwell
Catcher
Catchpole
Caviller
Cerberus
Challenger
Champion
Charon
Chaſer
Chaunter
Chieftain
Chimer
Chirper
Choleric
Claimant
Clamorous
Clangor
Clather
Climbank
Clinker
Combat
Combatant
Comforter
Comrade
Comus
Conflict
Conqueror
Conqueſt
Conſtant
Conteſt
Coroner
Cottager
Counſellor
Countryman
Courteous
Coxcomb
Craftſman
Craſher
Critic
Critical
Crowner
Cruiſer
Cruſty
Cryer
Curfew
Currier

C. *bitches.*

Capable
Captious
Careleſs
Careful
Carnage
Caution
Cautious
Charmer
Chauntreſs
Chearful
Cherriper
Chorus
Circe
Clarinet
Clio
Comely
Comfort
Comical
Concord
Courteſy
Crafty
Crazy
Credible
Credulous
Croney
Cruel
Curious

D. *dogs.*

Damper
Danger
Dangerous
Dapper
Dapſter
Darter
Daſher
Daſhwood
Daunter
Dexterous
Diſputant
Downright
Dragon
Dreadnought
Driver
Duſter

D. *bitches.*

Dainty
Daphne
Darling
Dashaway
Dauntless
Delicate
Desperate
Destiny
Dian
Diligent
Docile
Document
Doubtful
Doubtless
Dreadful
Dreadless
Dulcet

E. *dogs.*

Eager
Earnest
Effort
Elegant
Eminent
Envious
Envoy
Errant
Excellent

E. *bitches.*

Easy
Echo
Ecstacy
Endless
Energy
Enmity
Essay

F. *dogs.*

Factious
Factor
Fatal
Fearnought
Ferryman
Fervent
Finder
Firebrand
Flagrant
Flasher
Fleece'em
Flinger
Flippant
Flourisher
Flyer
Foamer
Foiler
Foreman
Foremost
Foresight
Forester
Forward
Fulminant
Furrier
Farmer.

F. *bitches.*

Fairmaid
Fairplay
Faithful
Famous
Fancyful
Fashion
Favourite
Fearless
Festive
Fickle
Fidget
Fiery
Fireaway
Firetail
Flighty
Flourish
Flurry
Forcible
Fretful
Friendly
Frisky
Frolic
Frolicsome
Funnylass
Fury

G. *dogs.*

Gainer
Gallant
Galliard
Galloper
Gamboy
Gameſter
Garrulous
Gazer
General
Genius
Gimcrack
Giant
Glancer
Glider
Glorious
Goblin
Governor
Grapler
Graſper
Griper
Growler
Grumbler
Guardian
Guider
Guiler

G. *bitches.*

Gaiety
Gainful
Galley
Gambol
Gameſome
Gameſtreſs
Gaylaſs
Ghaſtly
Giddy
Gladneſs
Gladſome
Governeſs
Graceful
Graceleſs
Gracious
Grateful
Gravity
Guileſome
Guiltleſs
Guilty

H. *dogs.*

Hannibal
Harbinger
Hardiman
Hardy
Harlequin
Harraſſer
Havock
Hazard
Headſtrong
Hearty
Hector
Heedful
Hercules
Hero
Highflyer

Hopeful
Hotſpur
Humbler
Hurtful

H. *bitches.*

Haſty
Handſome
Harlot
Harmony
Hazardous
Heedleſs
Helen
Heroine
Hideous
Honeſty
Hoſtile

I. J. *dogs.*

Jerker
Jingler
Impetus
Jockey
Jolly
Jolly-boy
Joſtler
Jovial
Jubal
Judgment
Jumper

I. J. *bitches.*

Jealouſy
Induſtry
Jollity
Joyful
Joyous

L. *dogs.*

Labourer
Larum
Laſher
Laſter
Launcher
Leader
Leveller
Liberal
Libertine
Lictor
Lifter
Lightfoot
Linguiſt
Liſtener
Lounger
Lucifer
Lunatic
Lunger
Lurker
Luſty

L. *bitches.*

Lacerate
Laudable
Laviſh
Lawleſs
Lenity
Levity
Liberty
Lightning
Lightſome
Likely
Liſſome
Litigate
Lively
Lofty
Lovely
Luckylaſs
Lunacy

M. *dogs.*

Manager
Manful
Markſman
Marplot
Marſchal
Martial
Marvellous
Match'em
Maxim
Maximus
Meaniwell
Medler
Menacer
Mendall
Mender
Mentor
Mercury
Merlin
Merryboy
Merryman
Meſſmate
Methodiſt
Mighty
Militant
Minikin
Miſcreant
Mittimus
Monarch
Monitor
Motley
Mounter
Mover
Mungo
Muſical
Mutinous
Mutterer
Myrmidon
Mountebank.

M. *bitches.*

Madcap
Madrigal
Magic
Maggoty
Matchleſs
Melody
Merrylaſs
Merryment
Mindful
Minion
Miriam
Miſchief

Miſchief
Modiſh
Monody
Muſic
milliner.

N. *dogs.*

Nervous
Neſtor
Nettler
Newſman
Nimrod
Noble
Nonſuch
Novel
Noxious

N. *bitches.*

Narrative
Neatneſs
Needful
Negative
Nicety
Nimble
Noiſy
Notable
Notice
Notion
Novelty
Novice

P. *dogs.*

Pæan
Pageant
Paragon
Paramount
Partner
Partyman
Pealer
Penetrant
Perfect
Perilous
Pertinent
Petulant
Phœbus
Piercer
Pilgrim
Pillager
Pilot
Pincher
Piper
Playful
Plodder
Plunder
Politic
Potent
Prater
Prattler
Premier
Preſident
Preſto
Prevalent
Primate
Principal
Prodigal
Prowler

Prompter
Prophet
Proſper
Proſperous
Pryer
panther

P. *bitches.*

Paſſion
Paſtime
Patience
Phœnix
Phrenetic
Phrenzy
Placid
Playful
Pleaſant
Pliant
Poſitive
Precious
Prettylaſs
Previous
Prieſteſs
Probity
Prudence

R. *dogs.*

Racer
Rager
Rallywood
Rambler
Ramper

Ramper
Rampant
Rancour
Random
Ranger
Ranſack
Rantaway
Ranter
Rapper
Ratler
Ravager
Ravenous
Raviſher
Reacher
Reaſoner
Rector
Regent
Render
Reſonant
Reſtive
Reveller
Rifler
Rigid
Rigour
Ringwood
Rioter
Riſker
Rockwood
Romper
Rouſer
Router
Rover
Rudeſby
Ruffian
Ruffler
Rumor
Runner
Rural
Ruſher
Ruſtic

R. *bitches.*

Racket
Rally
Rampiſh
Rantipole
Rapid
Rapine
Rapture
Rarity
Raſhneſs
Rattle
Raviſh
Reptile
Reſolute
Reſtleſs
Rhapſody
Riddance
Riot
Rival
Roguiſh
Ruin
Rummage
Ruthleſs

S. *dogs.*

Salient
Sampler
Sampſon
Sanction
Sapient
Saucebox
Saunter
Scalper
Scamper
Schemer
Scourer
Scrambler
Screamer
Screecher
Scuffler
Searcher
Settler
Sharper
Shifter
Signal
Singer
Singwell
Skirmiſh
Smoker
Social
Solomon
Solon
Songſter
Sonorous
Soundwell
Spanker
Special
Specimen
Speedwell
Spinner
Splendor
Splenetic
Spoiler
Spokeſman

Spokeſman
Sportſman
Squabbler
Squeaker
Stateſman
Steady
Stickler
Stinger
Stormer
Stranger
Stripling
Striver
Strivewell
Stroker
Stroller
Struggler
Sturdy
Subtile
Succour
Suppler
Surly
Swaggerer
Sylvan

S. *bitches.*

Sanguine
Sappho
Science
Scrupulous
Shrewdneſs
Skilful
Songſtreſs
Specious
Speedy
Spiteful
Spitfire
Sportful
Sportive
Sportly
Sprightly
Stately
Stoutneſs
Strenuous
Strumpet
Surety
Sybil
Symphony

Sweetlips

T. *dogs.*

Tackler
Taliſman
Tamer
Tangent
Tarter
Tatler
Taunter
Teaſer
Terror
Thraſher
Threatner
Thumper
Thunderer
Thwacker
Thwarter
Tickler
Tomboy
Topmoſt
Topper
Torment
Torrent
Torturer
Toſſer
Touchſtone
Tracer
Tragic
Trampler
Tranſit
Tranſport
Traveller
Trimbuſh
Trimmer
Triumph
Trojan
Trouncer
Truant
Trudger
Trueboy
Trueman
Truſty
Tryal
Tryer
Trywell
Tuner
Turbulent
Twanger
Twig'em
Tyrant

T. *bitches.*

Tattle
Telltale
Tempeſt

Tentative

Tentative
Termagant
Terminate
Terrible
Teſty
Thankful
Thoughtful
Tidings
Toilſome
Tractable
Tragedy
Treſpaſs
Trifle
Trivial
Trollop
Troubleſome
Truelaſs
Truemaid
Tunable
Tuneful

V. *dogs.*

Vagabond
Vagrant
Valiant
Valid
Valorous
Valour
Vaulter
Vaunter
Venture
Venturer
Venturous
Vermin
Vexer
Victor
Vigilant
Vigorous
Vigour
Villager
Viper
Volant
Voucher

V. *bitches.*

Vanquiſh
Vehemence
Vehement
Vengeance
Vengeful
Venomous
Ventureſome
Venus
Verify
Verity
Vicious
Victory
Victrix
Vigilance
Violent
Viperous
Virulent
Vitiate
Vivid
Vixen
Vocal
Volatile
Voluble

W. *dogs.*

Wanderer
Warbler
Warning
Warrior
Warwhoop
Wayward
Weilbred
Whipſter
Whynot
Wildair
Wildman
Wilful
Wiſdom
Woodman
Worker
Workman
Worthy
Wrangler
Wreſtler

W. *bitches.*

Waggery
Waggiſh
Wagtail
Wanton
Warfare
Warlike

Warlike	Welldone	Wiſhful
Waſpiſh	Whimſey	Wonderful
Waſteful	Whirligig	Worry
Watchful	Wildfire	Wrathful
Welcome	Willing	Wreakful

LET-

LETTER VI.

AFTER the young hounds have been rounded, and are well reconciled to the kennel, know the huntſman, and begin to know their names, they ſhould be put into couples, and walked out amongſt ſheep.

If any be particularly ſnappiſh and troubleſome, you ſhould leave the couples looſe about their necks in the kennel, till you find they are more reconciled to them. If any be more ſtubborn than the reſt, you ſhould couple them to old hounds rather than to young ones; and you ſhould not couple *two dogs* together when you can avoid it. Young hounds are awkward at firſt; I ſhould, therefore, adviſe you to ſend out a few only at a time with your people on foot; they will ſoon afterwards become handy enough to follow a horſe; and care ſhould be taken that the couples be not too looſe, leſt they ſhould ſlip their necks out of the collar, and give trouble in catching them again.

When they have been walked often in this manner amongſt the ſheep, you may then uncouple a few

a few at a time, and begin to chaſtiſe ſuch as offer to run after them; but you will ſoon find that the cry of *ware ſheep* will ſtop them ſufficiently without the whip; and the leſs this is uſed the better. With proper care and attention you will ſoon make them aſhamed of it, but if once ſuffered to taſte the blood, you may find it difficult to reclaim them. Various are the methods uſed to break ſuch dogs from ſheep; ſome will couple them to a ram, but that is breaking them with a vengeance; you had better hang them.—A late lord of my acquaintance, who had heard of this method, and whoſe whole pack had been often guilty of killing ſheep, determined to puniſh them, and to that intent put the largeſt ram he could find into his kennel. The men with their whips and voices, and the ram with his horns, ſoon put the whole kennel into confuſion and diſmay, and the hounds and the ram were then left together. Meeting a friend ſoon after, "come," ſays he, "come with me to the kennel, and ſee "what rare ſport the ram makes among the "hounds; the old fellow lays about him ſtoutly, "I aſſure you—egad he trims them—there is "not a dog dares look him in the face."—His friend, who is a compaſſionate man, pitied the hounds exceedingly, and aſked, if he was not afraid that ſome of them might be ſpoiled:—"No, d—n them," ſaid he, "they deſerve it, "and let them ſuffer."—On they went—all was

quiet

quiet—they opened the kennel door, but ſaw neither ram nor hound. The ram by this time was entirely eaten up, and the hounds having filled their bellies, were retired to reſt.

It without doubt is beſt when you air your hounds to take them out ſeparately; the old ones one day, another day the young;* but as I find your hounds are to have their whey at a diſtant dairy, on thoſe days, both old and young may be taken out together, obſerving only to take the young hounds in couples when the old ones are along with them. Young hounds are always ready for any kind of miſchief, and idleneſs might make even old ones too apt to join them in it. Beſides, ſhould they break off from the huntſman, the whipper-in is generally too ill mounted at this ſeaſon of the year eaſily to head and bring them back. Run no ſuch riſk. My hounds were near being ſpoiled by the mere accident of a horſe's falling. The whipper-in was thrown from his horſe; the horſe ran away, and the whole pack followed: a flock of ſheep, which were at a little diſtance, took fright, began to run, and the hounds purſued them. The moſt vicious ſet on the reſt, and ſeveral ſheep were ſoon

* It would be ſtill better to take out your hounds every day, the old and young ſeparately, when it can be done without inconvenience; when it cannot, a large graſs-court will partly anſwer the ſame purpoſe.

pulled

pulled down and killed. I mention this to ſhew you what caution is neceſſary whilſt hounds are idle; for though the fall of the horſe was not to be attributed to any fault of the man, yet had the old hounds been taken out by themſelves, or had all the young ones been in couples, it is probable ſo common an accident would not have produced ſo extraordinary an effect.

It is now time to ſtoop them to a ſcent.—You had better enter them at their own game—it will ſave you much trouble afterwards. Many dogs, I believe, like that ſcent beſt which they were firſt blooded to; but be that as it may, it is certainly moſt reaſonable to uſe them to that which it is intended they ſhould hunt. It may not be amiſs, when they firſt begin to hunt, to put light collars on them. Young hounds may eaſily get out of their knowledge; and ſhy ones, after they have been much beaten, may not chuſe to return home. Collars, in that caſe, may prevent their being loſt.

You ſay, you ſhould not like to ſee your young hounds run a trail-ſcent. I have no doubt that you would be glad to ſee them run over an open down, where you could ſo eaſily obſerve their action and their ſpeed. I cannot think the doing of it once or twice could hurt your hounds; and and yet as a ſportſman, I dare not recommend it to

to you. All that I ſhall ſay of it is, that it would be leſs bad than entering them *at hare*. A cat is as good a trail as any; but on no account ſhould any trail be uſed after your hounds are ſtooped to a ſcent.

I know an old ſportſman who enters his young hounds firſt at a cat, which he drags along the ground for a mile or two, at the end of which he turns out a badger, firſt taking care to break his teeth; he takes out about two couple of old hounds along with the young ones to hold them on. He never enters his young hounds but at vermin; for he ſays, "*train up a child in the way* "*he ſhould go, and when he is old he will not de-* "*part from it.*"

Summer hunting, though uſeful to young hounds, is prejudicial to old ones; I think, therefore, you will do well to reſerve ſome of the beſt of your draft-hounds to enter your young hounds with, ſelecting ſuch as are moſt likely to ſet them a good example. I need not tell you they ſhould not be ſkirters; but, on the contrary, ſhould be fair hunting hounds, ſuch as love a ſcent, and that hunt cloſeſt on the line of it; it will be neceſſary that ſome of them ſhould be good finders, and all muſt be ſteady: thus you procure for your young hounds the beſt inſtructors, and at the ſame time prevent two evils, which would neceſſarily

neceſſarily enſue, were they taught by the whole pack; one, that of corrupting, and getting into ſcrapes, ſuch as are not much wiſer than themſelves; and the other, that of occaſioning much flogging and rateing, which always ſhies and interrupts the hunting of an old hound. An old hound is a ſagacious animal, and is not fond of truſting himſelf in the way of an enraged whipper-in, who, as experience has taught him, can flog ſeverely, and can flog unjuſtly.—By attending to this advice, you will improve one part of your pack without prejudice to the other; whilſt ſuch as never ſeparate their young hounds from the old, are not likely to have any of them ſteady.

You aſk, at what time you ſhould begin to enter your young hounds?—that queſtion is eaſily anſwered; for you certainly ſhould begin with them *as ſoon as you can.* The time muſt vary in different countries: in corn countries it may not be poſſible to hunt till after the corn is cut; in graſs countries you may begin ſooner; and in woodlands you may hunt as ſoon as you pleaſe. If you have plenty of foxes, and can afford to make a ſacrifice of ſome of them for the ſake of making your young hounds ſteady, take them firſt where you have leaſt riot, putting ſome of the ſteadieſt of your old hounds amongſt them. If in ſuch a place you are fortunate enough to find a litter of foxes you, may aſſure yourſelf you will

have but little trouble with your young hounds afterwards.

Such young hounds as are moſt riotous at firſt, generally ſpeaking, I think, are beſt in the end. A gentleman in my neighbourhood was ſo thoroughly convinced of this, that he complained bitterly of a young pointer to the perſon who gave it him, becauſe he had done *no miſchief*. However, meeting the ſame perſon ſome time after, he told him the dog he believed would prove a good one at laſt.—"How ſo?" replied his friend, "it "was but the other day that you ſaid he was good "for nothing."—"*True*; *but he has killed me nine-*"*teen turkies ſince that.*"

If, owing to a ſcarcity of foxes, you ſhould ſtoop your hounds at hare, let them by no means have the blood of her; nor, for the ſake of conſiſtency, give them much encouragement. Hare-hunting has one advantage—hounds are chiefly in open ground, where you can eaſily command them; but, notwithſtanding that, if foxes be in tolerable plenty, keep them to their own game, and forget not the advice of the old ſportſman.

Frequent *hallooing* is of uſe with young hounds; it keeps them forward, prevents their being loſt, and hinders them from hunting after the reſt. The oftener therefore a fox is ſeen and hallooed, the better;

better; it ſerves to let them in, makes them eager, makes them exert themſelves, and teaches them to be handy. I muſt tell you, at the ſame time I ſay this, that I by no means approve of much hallooing to old hounds; and though I frequently am guilty of it myſelf, it is owing to my ſpirits, which lead me into an error which my judgment condemns. It is true, there is a time when hallooing is of uſe; a time when it does hurt; and a time when it is perfectly indifferent: but it is long practice, and great attention to hunting, that muſt teach you the application.

Hounds, at their firſt entering, cannot be encouraged too much. When they become handy, love a ſcent, and begin to know what is *right*, it will be ſoon enough to chaſtiſe them for doing *wrong*; in which caſe, one ſevere beating will ſave a deal of trouble. You ſhould recommend to your whipper-in, when he flogs a hound, to make uſe of his voice as well as his whip; and let him remember, that the ſmack of the whip is often of as much uſe as the laſh, to one that has felt it. If any be very unſteady, it will not be amiſs to ſend them out by themſelves, when the men go out to exerciſe their horſes. If you have hares in plenty, let ſome be found ſitting, and turned out before them; and you will ſoon find the moſt riotous will not run after them. If you intend them to be made ſteady from deer, they

ſhould often ſee deer, and they will not regard them; and if, after a probation of this kind, you turn out a cub before them, with ſome old hounds o lead them on, you may aſſure yourſelf they will not be unſteady long; for as Somervile rightly obſerves,

> " Eaſy the leſſon of the youthful train,
> When inſtinct prompts, and when example guides."

Flogging hounds in the kennel, the frequent practice of moſt huntſmen, I hold in abhorrence: it is unreaſonable, unjuſt, and cruel; and carried to the exceſs we ſometimes ſee it, is a diſgrace to humanity. Hounds that are old offenders, that are very riotous, and at the ſame time very cunning, it may be difficult to catch: ſuch hounds may be excepted——they deſerve puniſhment wherever taken, and you ſhould not fail to give it them *when you can.*—This you will allow is a particular caſe, and neceſſity may excuſe it—but let not the peace and quiet of your kennel be often thus diſturbed. When your hounds offend, puniſh them:—when caught in the fact, then let them ſuffer—and if you be ſevere, at leaſt be juſt.

When your young hounds ſtoop to a ſcent, are become handy, know a rate and ſtop eaſily, you may then begin to put them into the pack, a few only at a time; nor do I think it adviſeable to begin this,

this, till the pack have been out a few times by themſelves, and are gotten well in blood. I ſhould alſo adviſe you to take them the firſt day where they are moſt ſure to find; as long reſt makes all hounds riotous, and they may do that *en gaieté de cœur*, which they would not think of at another time. Let your hounds be low in fleſh, when you begin to hunt; the ground is generally hard at that ſeaſon, and they are liable to be ſhaken.

If your covers be large, you will find the ſtrait horn of uſe, and I am ſorry to hear that you do not approve of it.—You aſk me why I like it?—not as a *muſician*, I can aſſure you.—It ſignifies little in our way what the noiſe is, as long as it is underſtood.

LETTER VII.

UNLESS I had kept a regular journal of all that has been done in the kennel from the time when my young hounds were firſt taken in, to the end of the laſt ſeaſon, it would be impoſſible, I think, to anſwer all the queſtions which in your laſt letter you aſk concerning them. I wiſh that a memory, which is far from a good one, would enable me to give the information you deſire. If I am to be more circumſtantial than in my former letter, I muſt recollect, as well as I can, the regular ſyſtem of my own kennel; and if I am to write from memory, you will, without doubt, excuſe the want of the *lucidus ordo*:—it ſhall be my endeavour, that the information theſe letters contain, ſhall not miſlead you.

You wiſh me to explain what I mean by hounds being *handy*—it reſpects their readineſs to do whatever is required of them; and particularly, when caſt, to turn eaſily which way the huntſman pleaſes.*

* My hounds are frequently walked about the courts of the kennel, the whipper-in following them, and rating them after the huntſman; this, and the ſending them out, (after they have been fed,) with the people on foot, contribute greatly to make them handy.

I was

I was told the other day by a ſportſman, that he conſiders the management of hounds as a regular ſyſtem of education, from the time when they are firſt taken into the kennel: I perfectly agree with this gentleman; and am well convinced, that if you expect ſagacity in your hound when he is old, you muſt be mindful what inſtruction he receives from you in his youth; for as he is of all animals the moſt docile, he is alſo moſt liable to bad habits. A diverſity of character, conſtitution, and diſpoſition, are to be obſerved amongſt them; which, to be made the moſt of, muſt be carefully attended to, and differently treated. I do not pretend to have ſucceeded in it myſelf; yet you will perceive, perhaps, that I have paid ſome attention to it.

I begin to hunt with my young hounds in Auguſt. The employment of my huntſman the preceding months is to keep his old hounds healthy and quiet, by giving them proper exerciſe; and to get his young hounds forward.* They are called over often in the kennel; it uſes them to their names, to the huntſman, and to the whipper-in.

* Nothing will anſwer this purpoſe ſo well as taking them out often. Let your huntſman lounge about with them---nothing will make them ſo handy. Let him get off his horſe frequently, and encourage them to come to him,---nothing will familiarize them ſo much.---Too great reſtraint will oftentimes incline hounds to be riotous.

They are walked out often among ſheep, hares, and deer: it uſes them to a rate. Sometimes he turns down a cat before them, which they hunt up to, and kill: and, when the time of hunting approaches, he turns out badgers or young foxes, taking out ſome of the ſteadieſt of his old hounds to lead them on—this teaches them to hunt. He draws ſmall covers and furze brakes with them, to uſe them to a halloo, and to teach them obedience. If they find improper game, and hunt it, they are ſtopped and brought back; and as long as they will ſtop at a rate, they are not chaſtiſed. Obedience is all that is required of them, till they have been ſufficiently taught the game they are to purſue. An obſtinate deviation from it afterwards is *never pardoned.* It is an obſervation of the Marcheſe Beccaria, that "La certezza di un "caſtigo, benche moderato, fara ſempre una "maggiore impreſſione, che non il timore di un "altro piu terribile, unito colla ſperanza, della "'impunita."

When my young hounds are taken out to air, my huntſman takes them into that country in which they are to hunt. It is attended with this advantage; they acquire a knowledge of the country, and when left behind at any time, cannot fail to find their way home more eaſily.

When

When they begin to hunt, they are firſt taken into a large cover of my own, which has many ridings cut in it; and where young foxes are turned out every year on purpoſe for them. *Here* they are taught the ſcent they are to follow, are encouraged to purſue it, and are ſtopped from every other. *Here* they are blooded to fox. I muſt alſo tell you that as foxes are plentiful in this cover, the principal earth is not ſtopped, and the foxes are checked back, or ſome of them let in, as may beſt ſuit the purpoſe of blooding. After they have been hunted a few days in this manner, they are then ſent to more diſtant covers, and more old hounds are added to them; there they continue to hunt till they are taken into the pack, which is ſeldom later than the beginning of September; for by that time they will have learned what is required of them, and they ſeldom give much trouble afterwards.* In September I begin to hunt in earneſt, and after the old hounds have killed a few foxes, the young hounds are put into the pack, two or three couple at a time, till all have hunted. They are then divided; and as I ſeldom have occaſion to take in more than nine or ten couple, one half are taken out one day, the other half the next, till all are ſteady.

* Sport in fox-hunting cannot be ſaid to begin before October, but in the two preceding months, a pack is either made or marred.

Two

Two other methods of entering young hounds I have practiſed occaſionally, as the number of hounds have required; for inſtance, if that number be conſiderable, (fifteen or ſixteen couple,) I make a large draft of my ſteadieſt hounds, which are kept with the young hounds in a ſeparate kennel, and are hunted with them all the firſt part of the ſeaſon. This, when the old hounds begin to hunt, makes two diſtinct packs, and is always attended with great trouble and inconvenience. Nothing hurts a pack ſo much as to enter many young hounds, ſince it muſt be conſiderably weakened by being robbed of thoſe which are the moſt ſteady; and yet young hounds can do nothing without their aſſiſtance. Such, therefore, as conſtantly enter their young hounds in this manner, will, ſometimes at leaſt, have two indifferent packs, inſtead of one good one.

In the other method the young hounds are well awed from ſheep, but never ſtooped to a ſcent, till they are taken out with the pack; they are then taken out a few only at a time; and if your pack be perfectly ſteady, and well manned, may not give you much trouble. The method I firſt mentioned, is that I moſt commonly practiſe, being moſt ſuitable to the number of young hounds I uſually enter—nine or ten couple: if you have fewer, the laſt will be moſt convenient. The one which requires two diſtinct packs, is on too ex-

tenſive a plan to ſuit your eſtabliſhment, requiring more horſes and hounds than you intend to keep.*

Though I have mentioned, in a former letter, from eight to twelve couple of young hounds, as a ſufficient number to keep up your pack to its preſent eſtabliſhment; yet it is always beſt to have a reſerve of a few couple more than you want, in caſe of accidents: ſince from the time you make your draft, to the time of hunting, is a long period; and their exiſtence at that age and ſeaſon very precarious: beſides, when they are ſafe from the diſorder, they are not always ſafe from each other; and a ſummer ſeldom paſſes without ſome

* To render fox-hunting perfect, no young hounds ſhould be taken into the pack the firſt ſeaſon—a requiſite too expenſive for moſt ſportſmen. The pack ſhould conſiſt of about forty couple of hounds, that have hunted, one, two, three, four, or five ſeaſons. The young pack ſhould conſiſt of about twenty couple of young hounds, and about an equal number of old ones. They ſhould have a ſeparate eſtabliſhment, nor ſhould the two kennels be near enough to interfere with each other. The ſeaſon over, the beſt of the young hounds ſhould be taken into the pack, and the draft of old ones exchanged for them. To enable you every ſeaſon to take in twenty couple of young hounds, many muſt be bred; and of courſe the greater your choice, the handſomer your pack will become. It will always be eaſy to keep up the number of old hounds, for when your own draft is not ſufficient, drafts from other packs may eaſily be obtained, and at a ſmall expence. When young hounds are hunted together the firſt ſeaſon, and have not a ſufficient number of old hounds along with them, it does them more harm than good.

loſſes

loſſes of that kind. At the ſame time I muſt tell you, that I ſhould decline *entering* more than are neceſſary to keep up the pack, ſince a greater number would only create uſeleſs trouble and vexation.

You wiſh to know what number of old hounds you ſhould hunt with the young ones:—that muſt depend on the ſtrength of your pack, and the number which you chooſe to ſpare; if good and ſteady, ten or twelve couple will be ſufficient.

My young hounds, and ſuch old ones as are intended to hunt along with them,* are kept in a kennel by themſelves, till the young hounds are hunted with the pack. I need not, I am ſure, enumerate the many reaſons that make *this regulation* neceſſary.

I never truſt my young hounds in the foreſt till they have been well blooded to fox, and ſeldom put more than a couple into the pack at a time.†

* Some alſo take out their unſteady hounds, when they enter the young ones; I doubt the propriety of it.

† I ſometimes ſend all my young hounds together into the foreſt, with four or five couple of old hounds only; ſuch as I know they cannot ſpoil. As often as any of them break off to deer, they are taken up, and flogged. When they loſe one fox, they try for another; and are kept out, till they are all made tolerably ſteady.

The

The others are walked out amongſt the deer, when the men exerciſe their horſes, and are ſeverely chaſtiſed if they take any notice of them. They alſo draw covers with them; chooſing out ſuch, where they can beſt ſee their hounds, and moſt eaſily command them; and where there is the leaſt chance to find a fox. On theſe occaſions I had rather they ſhould have to rate their hounds than encourage them. It requires leſs judgment; and, if improperly done, is leſs dangerous in its conſequences. One halloo of encouragement to a wrong ſcent, more than undoes all that you have been doing.

When young hounds begin to love a ſcent, it may be of uſe to turn out a badger before them; you will then be able to diſcover what improvement they have made; I mention a badger, on a ſuppoſition that young foxes cannot ſo well be ſpared; beſides, the badger, being a ſlower animal, he may eaſily be followed, and driven the way you chooſe he ſhould run.

The day you intend to turn out a fox, or badger, you will do well to ſend them amongſt hares, or deer. A little rating and flogging, before they are encouraged to vermin, is of the greateſt uſe, as it teaches them as well what they ſhould not, as what they ſhould do. I have known a badger run ſeveral miles, if judiciouſly

managed; for which purpoſe he ſhould be turned out in a very open country, and followed by a perſon who has more ſenſe than to ride on the line of him. If he do not meet with a cover or hedge in his way, he will keep on for ſeveral miles; if he do, you will not be able to get him any farther. You ſhould give him a great deal of law, and you will do well to break his teeth.*

If you run any cubs to ground in an indifferent country, and do not want blood, bring them home, and they will be of uſe to your young hounds. Turn out bag foxes to your young hounds, but never to your old ones. I object to them on many accounts; but of bag foxes I ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak hereafter.

The day after your hounds have had blood, is alſo a proper time to ſend them where there is riot, and to chaſtiſe them if they deſerve; it is always beſt to correct them when they cannot help knowing what they are corrected for. When you ſend out your hounds for this purpoſe, the later they go out the better, as the worſe the ſcent is the leſs inclinable will they be to run it, and of

* The critic ſays, "there is neither juſtice nor equity in breaking his teeth." (Vide Monthly Review.) I confeſs there is not, and I never know that it is done, but I feel all the force of the obſervation. Let *neceſſity*, if it be able, plead in its excuſe.

courſe

courſe will give leſs trouble in ſtopping them. It is a common practice with huntſmen to flog their hounds moſt unmercifully in the kennel: I have already mentioned my diſapprobation of it; but if many of your hounds be obſtinately riotous,* you may with leſs impropriety put a live hare into the kennel to them, flogging them as often as they appproach her; they will then have ſome notion, at leaſt, for what they are beaten: but let me entreat you, before this *charivari*† begins, to draft off your hounds; an animal to whom we owe ſo much good diverſion ſhould not be ill uſed unneceſſarily. When a hare is put into the kennel, the huntſman and both the whippers-in ſhould be preſent; and the whippers-in ſhould flog every hound, calling him by his name, and rateing him as often as he is near the hare; and, upon this occaſion, they cannot cut them too hard, or rate them too much. When

* This paſſage has alſo been thought deſerving of cenſure, though its motive is humane. By theſe means, the diſobedient are taught obedience, and a more general puniſhment prevented; which the effect of bad example might otherwiſe make neceſſary.

† A confuſion ariſing from a variety of noiſes. It is a cuſtom in France, and in Switzerland, if a woman marry ſooner than is uſual after the death of her huſband; or a woman get the better of her huſband when attempting to chaſtiſe her, and return the beating with intereſt—the neighbours give them a *charivari*—a kind of concert compoſed of tongs, fire-ſhovels, kettles, braſs pans, &c. &c.

they

they think they have chaſtiſed them enough, the hare ſhould then be taken away, the huntſman ſhould halloo off his hounds, and the whippers-in ſhould rate them to him. If any one love hare more than the reſt, you may tie a dead one round his neck, flogging him and rating him at the ſame time. This poſſibly may make him aſhamed of it. I never bought a lot of hounds, ſome of which were not obliged to undergo this diſcipline. Either hares are leſs plentiful in other countries, or other ſportſmen are leſs nice in making their hounds ſteady from them.

I would adviſe you to hunt your large covers with your young hounds: it will tire them out;* a neceſſary ſtep towards making them ſteady; will open the cover againſt the time you begin in earneſt, and by diſturbing the large covers early in the year, foxes will be ſhy of them in the ſeaſon, and ſhew you better chaces; beſides, as they are not likely to break from thence, you can

* Provided that you have old hounds enough out, to carry on the ſcent; if you have not a body of old hounds to keep up a cry on the right ſcent, the young ones, as ſoon as the ground becomes foiled, will be ſcattered about the cover, hunting old ſcents, and will not get on faſt enough to tire themſelves. Young hounds ſhould never be taken into large covers, where there is much riot, unleſs whippers-in can eaſily get at them.

do

do no hurt to the corn, and may begin before it is cut.

If your hounds be very riotous, and you are obliged to ſtop them often from hare, it will be adviſeable to try on (however late it may be) till you find a fox; as the giving them encouragement ſhould, at ſuch a time, prevail over every other conſideration.

Though all young hounds are given to riot, yet the better they are bred, the leſs trouble they will be likely to give. Pointers well-bred ſtand naturally, and high-bred fox-hounds love their own game beſt. Such, however, as are very riotous, ſhould have little reſt; you ſhould hunt them one day in large covers where foxes are in plenty; the next day they ſhould be walked out amongſt hares and deer, and ſtopped from riot; the day following be hunted again as before. Old hounds, which I have had from other packs, (particularly ſuch as have been entered at hare) I have ſometimes found incorrigible; but I never yet knew a young hound ſo riotous, but, by this management, he ſoon became ſteady.

When hounds are rated, and do not anſwer the rate, they ſhould be coupled up immediately, and be made to know the whipper-in; in all probability this method will ſave any farther

trouble. Theſe fellows ſometimes flog hounds unmercifully, and ſome of them ſeem to take pleaſure in their cruelty; I am ſure, however, I need not deſire you to prevent any exceſs in correction.

I have heard that no fox-hounds will break off to deer after once a fox is found.—I cannot ſay the experience I have had of this diverſion will in any wiſe juſtify the remark; let me adviſe you, therefore, to ſeek a ſurer dependence. Before you hunt your good hounds where hares are in plenty, let them be awed and ſtopped from hare: before you hunt amongſt deer, let them not only ſee deer, but let them draw covers where deer are; for you muſt not be ſurpriſed, if, after they are ſo far ſteady as not to run them in view, they ſhould challenge on the ſcent of them. Unleſs you take this method with your young hounds before you put them into the pack, you will run a riſk of corrupting the old ones, and may ſuffer continual vexation by hunting with unſteady hounds. I have already told you, that after my young hounds *are* taken into the pack, I ſtill take out but very few at a time when I hunt among deer. I alſo change them when I take out others, for the ſteadineſs they may have acquired could be but little depended on, were they to meet with any encouragement to be riotous.

I con-

I confeſs I think firſt impreſſions of more conſequence than they are in general thought to be; I not only enter my young hounds to vermin on that account, but I even uſe them, as early as I can, to the ſtrongeſt covers and thickeſt brakes; and I ſeldom find that they are ſhy of them afterwards. A friend of mine has aſſured me, that he once entered a ſpaniel to ſnipes, and the dog ever after was partial to them, preferring them to every other bird.

If you have martin cats within your reach, as all hounds are fond of their ſcent, you will do well to enter your young hounds in the covers they frequent. The martin cat being a ſmall animal, by running the thickeſt brakes it can find, teaches hounds to run cover, and is therefore of the greateſt uſe. I do not much approve of hunting them with the old hounds; they ſhew but little ſport; are continually climbing trees; and as the cover they run ſeldom fails to ſcratch and tear hounds conſiderably, I think you might be ſorry to ſee your whole pack disfigured by it. The agility of this little animal is really wonderful; and though it falls frequently from a tree, in the midſt of a whole pack of hounds, all intent on catching it, there are but few inſtances, I believe, of a martin's being caught by them in that ſituation.

In ſummer hounds might hunt in an evening: —I know a pack, that after having killed one fox in the morning with the young hounds, killed another in the evening with the old ones. Scent generally lies well at the cloſe of the day, yet there is a great objection to hunting at that time; —animals are then more eaſily diſturbed, and you have a greater variety of ſcents than at an earlier hour.

Having given you all the information that I can poſſibly recollect, with regard to my own management of young hounds, I ſhall now take notice of that part of your laſt letter, where, I am ſorry to find, our opinions differ.—Obedience, you ſay, is every thing neceſſary in a hound, and that it is of little conſequence by what means it is obtained. I cannot concur altogether in that opinion; for I think it very neceſſary, that the hound ſhould at the ſame time underſtand you. Obedience, under proper management, will be a neceſſary conſequence of it. Obedience, ſurely, is not all that is required of them; they ſhould be taught to diſtinguiſh of themſelves right from wrong, or I know not how they are to be managed; when, as it frequently happens, we cannot ſee what they are at, and muſt take their words for it. A hound that hears a voice which has often rated him, and that hears the whip he has often felt, I know, will ſtop. I alſo know, he

he will commit the ſame fault again, if he has been accuſtomed to be guilty of it.

Obedience, you very rightly obſerve, is a neceſſary quality in a hound, for he is uſeleſs without it. It is, therefore, an excellent principle for a huntſman to ſet out upon; yet, good as it is, I think it may be carried too far. I would not have him inſiſt on too much, or torment his hounds *mal-à-propos*, by forcibly exacting from them what is not abſolutely neceſſary to your diverſion. You ſay, he intends to enter your hounds at hare:—is it to teach them obedience? Does he mean to encourage vice in them for the ſake of correcting it afterwards?—I have heard, indeed, that the way to make hounds ſteady from hare, is to enter them at hare:* that is, to encourage them to hunt her. The belief of ſo ſtrange a paradox requires more faith than I can pretend to.

It concerns me to be under the neceſſity of differing from you in opinion; but ſince it cannot now be helped, we will purſue the ſubject, and examine it throughout. Permit me then to aſk

* In proper hands either method may do. The method here propoſed ſeems beſt ſuited to fox-hounds in general, as well as to thoſe who have the direction of them. The talents of ſome men are ſuperior to all rules; nor is their ſucceſs any poſitive proof of the goodneſs of their method.

you, what it is you propoſe from entering your hounds at hare? Two advantages, I ſhall preſume, you expect from it—the teaching of your hounds to hunt, and teaching them to be obedient. However neceſſary you may think theſe requiſites in a hound, I cannot but flatter myſelf that they are to be acquired by leſs exceptionable means. The method I have already mentioned to make hounds obedient, as it is practiſed in my own kennel—that of calling them over often in the kennel, to uſe them to their names,* and walking them out often amongſt ſheep, hares, and deer, from which they are ſtopped to uſe them to a rate, in my opinion, would anſwer your purpoſe better. The teaching your hounds to hunt, is by no means ſo neceſſary as you ſeem to imagine. *Nature* will teach it them, nor need you give yourſelf ſo much concern about it. *Art* only will be neceſſary to prevent them from hunting what they ought *not to hunt*; and do you think your method a proper one to accompliſh it?

The firſt and moſt eſſential thing towards making hounds obedient, I ſuppoſe, is to make them underſtand you; nor do I apprehend that you will find any difficulty on their parts, but ſuch

* Vide note page 43.

as may be occaſioned on your's.* The language we uſe to them to convey our meaning ſhould never vary; ſtill leſs ſhould we alter the very meaning of the terms we uſe. Would it not be abſurd to encourage when we mean to rate? and if we did, could we expect to be obeyed? You will not deny this, and yet you are guilty of no leſs an inconſiſtency, when you encourage your hounds to run a ſcent to-day, which you know, at the ſame time, you muſt be obliged to break them from to-morrow—is it not running counter to juſtice and to reaſon?

I confeſs there is ſome uſe in hunting young hounds, where you can eaſily command them; but even this you may pay too dearly for. Enter your hounds in ſmall covers, or in ſuch large ones as have ridings cut in them; whippers-in can then get at them, can always ſee what they are at, and I have no doubt that you may have a pack of fox-hounds ready to fox by this means, without adopting ſo prepoſterous a method as that of firſt making hare-hunters of them. You will find, that hounds thus taught what game they are to hunt, and what they are not, will

* Were huntſmen to ſcream continually to their hounds, uſing the ſame halloo whether they were drawing, caſting, or running, the hounds could not underſtand them, and probably would ſhew, on every occaſion, as little attention to them as they would deſerve.

ſtop at a word, becauſe they will underſtand you: and, after they have been treated in this manner, a ſmack only of the whip will ſpare you the inhumanity of cutting your hounds in pieces (not very juſtly) for faults which you yourſelf have encouraged them to commit.

In your laſt letter you ſeem very anxious to get your young hounds well blooded to fox, at the ſame time that you talk of entering them at hare. How am I to reconcile ſuch contradictions? If the blood of fox be of ſo much uſe, ſurely you cannot think the blood of hare a matter of indifference; unleſs you ſhould be of opinion, that a fox is better eating. You may think, perhaps, it was not intended they ſhould hunt ſheep; yet we very well know, when once they have killed ſheep, that they have no diſlike to mutton afterwards.

You have conceived an idea, perhaps, that a fox-hound is deſigned by nature to hunt a fox. Yet, ſurely, if that were your opinion, you would not think of entering him at any other game. I cannot, however, ſuppoſe nature deſigned the dog, which we call a fox-hound, to hunt fox only, ſince, we very well know, he will alſo hunt other animals. That a well bred fox-hound may give a preference to vermin, *cæteris paribus*, I will not diſpute: it is very poſſible he may; but

of

of this I am certain—that every fox-hound will leave a bad ſcent of fox for a good one of either hare or deer, unleſs he has been made ſteady from them; and in this I ſhall not fear to be contradicted. But as I do not wiſh to enter into abſtruſe reaſoning with you, or think it in anywiſe material to our preſent purpoſe, whether the dogs we call fox-hounds were originally deſigned by nature to hunt fox or not; we will drop the ſubject. I muſt at the ſame time beg leave to obſerve, that dogs are not the only animals in which an extraordinary diverſity of ſpecies has happened ſince the days of Adam: yet a great naturaliſt tells us, that man is nearer, by eight degrees, to Adam, than is the dog to the firſt dog of his race; ſince the age of man is fourſcore years, and that of a dog but ten. It therefore follows, that if both ſhould equally degenerate, the alteration would be eight times more remarkable in the dog than in man.

The two moſt neceſſary queſtions which reſult from the foregoing premiſes, are—whether hounds entered at hare are perfectly ſteady, afterwards, to fox—and, whether ſteadineſs be not attainable by more reaſonable means? Having never hunted with gentlemen who follow this practice, I muſt leave the firſt queſtion for others to determine; but having always had my hounds ſteady, I can myſelf anſwer the ſecond.

The

The objections I have now made to the treatment of young hounds by ſome huntſmen, though addreſſed, my friend, to you, are general objections, and ſhould not perſonally offend you. I know no man more juſt, or more humane, than yourſelf. The diſapprobation you ſo ſtrongly marked in your laſt letter of the ſeverity uſed in ſome kennels, the noble animal we both of us admire is much beholden to you for. Your intention of being preſent yourſelf the firſt time a hound is flogged, to ſee how your new whipper-in behaves himſelf, is a proof of benevolence, which the Italian author of the moſt humane book,* could not fail to commend you for. Huntſmen and whippers-in are ſeldom ſo unlucky as to have your feelings; yet cuſtom, which authoriſes them to flog hounds unmerciſully, does not do away the barbarity of it.—A gentleman ſeeing a girl ſkinning eels alive, aſked her, "if it was not "very cruel!"—"O not at all, Sir," replied the girl, "*they be uſed to it.*"

* Dei delitti e delle pene.

LET-

LETTER VIII.

YOU deſire to know if there be any remedy for the diſtemper among dogs. I ſhall, therefore, mention all the diſorders which my hounds have experienced, and point out the remedies which have been of ſervice to them. The diſtemper you inquire about is, I believe, the moſt fatal (the plague only excepted) that any animal is ſubject to. Though not long known in this country, it is almoſt inconceivable what numbers have been deſtroyed by it in ſo ſhort a period; ſeveral hundreds I can myſelf place to this mortifying account. It ſeems happily to be now on the decline; at leaſt, is leſs frequent and more mild; and probably in time may be entirely removed. The effects of it are too generally known to need any deſcription of them here; I wiſh the remedies were known as well!

A brother ſportſman communicated to me a remedy, which, he ſaid, his hounds had found great benefit from, viz. *an ounce of Peruvian bark, in a glaſs of Port wine, taken twice a day.*— It is not infallible; but in ſome ſtages of this diſ-

diſorder is certainly of uſe. The hound moſt infected, that ever I knew to recover, was a large ſtag-hound; he lay five days without being able to get off the bench; receiving little nouriſhment during the whole time of the diſorder, except the medicine, with which he drank three bottles of Port wine. You may think, perhaps, the feeder drank his ſhare—it is probable he might, had it not been ſent ready mixed up with the bark. I once tried the *poudre unique*, thinking it a proper medicine for a diſorder which is ſaid to be putrid; but I cannot ſay any thing in its favour, with regard to dogs, at leaſt. Norris's drops I have alſo given, and with ſucceſs. I gave a large table-ſpoonful of them in an equal quantity of Port wine, three times a day; as the dog grew better, I leſſened the quantity. When dogs run much at the noſe, nothing will contribute more to the cure of them than keeping that part clean; when that cannot conveniently be done, emetics will be neceſſary: the beſt I know is a large ſpoonful of common ſalt, diſſolved in three ſpoonfuls of warm water.* The firſt ſymptom of this diſorder generally is a cough. As ſoon as it is perceived amongſt my young hounds, great attention is paid to them: they have plenty

* The quantity of ſalt muſt be proportioned to the ſize of the dog, and to the difficulty there may be to make him vomit.

of clean ſtraw, and are fed oftener and better than at other times; as long as they continue to eat the kennel meat, they are kept together; as ſoon as any of them refuſe to feed, they are removed into another kennel, the door of the lodging-room is left open in the day, and they are only ſhut up at night: being out in the air is of great ſervice to them. To ſuch as are very bad, I give Norris's drops; to others, emetics; whilſt ſome only require to be better fed than ordinary, and need no other remedy.* They ſhould be fed from the kitchen, when they refuſe the kennel meat. Sometimes they will loſe the uſe of their hinder parts; bleeding them, by cutting of the laſt joint of the tail, may, perhaps, be of ſervice to them. I cannot ſpeak of it with any certainty, yet I have reaſon to think that I once ſaved a favourite dog by this operation. In ſhort, by one method or another, I think they may always be recovered.

The likelieſt preſervative for thoſe that are well is keeping them warm at night, and feeding them high. This diſorder being probably infectious, it is better to provide an hoſpital for ſuch as are ſeized with it, which ſhould be in the

* Hounds that have the diſtemper upon them have but little appetite. By feeding two or three together, they eat more greedily.

back

back part of the kennel. There is no doubt that ſome kennels are healthier than others, and conſequently leſs liable to it. I apprehend mine to be one of thoſe; for in a dozen years I do not believe that I have loſt half that number of old hounds, although I loſe ſo great a number of whelps at their walks. Neighbouring kennels have not been equally fortunate: I have obſerved, in ſome of them, a diſorder unknown in mine; I mean a ſwelling in the ſide, which ſometimes breaks, but ſoon after forms again, and generally proves fatal at laſt. I once heard a friend of mine ſay, whoſe kennel is ſubject to this complaint, that he never knew but one inſtance of a dog who recovered from it. I have, however, ſince known another, in a dog I had from him, which I cured by frequently rubbing with a digeſtive ointment: the tumour broke, and formed again ſeveral times, till at laſt it entirely diſappeared. The diſorder we have now been treating of has this, I think, in common with the putrid ſore throat, that it uſually attacks the weakeſt. Women are more apt to catch the ſore throat than men; children, than women; and young hounds more readily catch this diſorder than old. When it ſeizes whelps at their walks, or young hounds, when firſt taken from them, it is then moſt dangerous. I alſo think that madneſs, *their* inflammatory fever, is leſs frequent than it was before this diſorder was known.

There are few diſorders which dogs are ſo ſubject to as the mange. Air and exerciſe, wholſome food, and cleanlineſs, are the beſt preſervatives againſt it. Your feeder ſhould be particularly attentive to it, and when he perceives any ſpot upon them, let him rub it with the following mixture:

A pint of train oil,
Half a pint of oil of turpentine,
A quarter of a pound of ginger, in powder,
Half an ounce of gunpowder, finely powdered,
Mixed up cold.

If the diſorder ſhould be bad enough to reſiſt *that*, three mild purging balls, one every other day, ſhould be given, and the dog laid up for a little while afterwards. For the red mange, you may uſe the following:

Four ounces of quickſilver,
Two ounces of Venice turpentine,
One pound of hog's lard.

The quickſilver and turpentine are to be rubbed together, till the globules all diſappear. When you apply it, you muſt rub an ounce, once a day, upon the part affected, for three days ſucceſſively. This is to be uſed when the hair comes off, or any redneſs appears.

How wonderful is the fatigue which a foxhound undergoes! Could you count the miles he

he runs, the number would appear almoſt incredible. This he undergoes cheerfully; and, perhaps, three times a week, through a long ſeaſon: his health, therefore, well deſerves your care; nor ſhould you ſuffer the leaſt taint to injure it. Huntſmen are frequently too negligent in this point. I know one in particular, a famous one too, whoſe kennel was never free from the mange, and the ſmell of brimſtone was oftentimes ſtronger, I believe, in the noſes of his hounds than the ſcent of the fox.—If you chuſe to try a curious preſcription for the cure of the mange, in the Phil. Tranſ. No. 25, p. 451, you will find the following:

" Mr. Cox procured an old mungrel cur, all " over mangy, of a middle ſize, and having, " ſome hours before, fed him plentifully with " cheeſe-parings and milk, he prepared his ju- " gular vein; then he made a ſtrong ligature on " his neck, that the venal blood might be emit- " ted with the greater impetus; after this, he " took a young land ſpaniel, about the ſame " bigneſs, and prepared his jugular vein like- " wiſe, that the deſcendent part might receive " the mangy dog's blood, and the aſcendent diſ- " charge his own into a diſh; he transfuſed " about fourteen or ſixteen ounces of the blood " of the *infected* into the veins of the *ſound* dog; " by this experiment there appeared no alteration

" in

" in the ſound one, but the mangy dog was, in " about ten days, or a fortnight's time, perfectly " cured; and poſſibly this is the quickeſt and " ſureſt remedy for that diſeaſe, either in man " or beaſt."

Hounds ſometimes are bitten by vipers: ſweet oil has been long deemed a certain antidote; ſome ſhould be applied to the part, and ſome taken inwardly. Though a friend of mine informs me, that the common cheeſe rennet, externally applied, is a more efficacious remedy than oil, for the bite of a viper. They are liable to wounds and cuts: Friar's balſam is very good, if applied immediately; yet, as it is apt to ſhut up a bad wound too ſoon, the following tincture in ſuch caſes may, perhaps, be preferable; at leaſt, after the firſt dreſſing or two—

Of Barbadoes aloes, two ounces,
Of myrrh, pounded, three ounces,
Mixed up with a quart of brandy.

The bottle ſhould be well corked, and put into a bark bed, or dunghill, for about ten days or a fortnight. The tongue of the dog, in moſt caſes, is his beſt ſurgeon; where he can apply *that*, he will ſeldom need any other remedy. A green, or ſeton, in the neck, is of great relief in moſt diſorders of the eyes; and I have frequently known dogs almoſt blind, recovered by it. It is

alſo of ſervice when dogs are ſhaken in the ſhoulders, and has made many ſound.* In the latter caſe, there ſhould be two, one applied on each ſide, and as near to the ſhoulder as it is poſſible. The following ointment may be uſed to diſperſe ſwellings:

Of freſh mutton ſuet, *tried*, two pounds,
Of gum elemi, one pound,
Of common turpentine, ten ounces.

The gum is to be melted with the ſuet, and, when taken from the fire, the turpentine is to be mixed with it, ſtraining the mixture whilſt it is hot. Dogs frequently are ſtubbed in the foot: the tincture before-mentioned, and this, or any digeſtive ointment, will ſoon recover them.† For ſtrains, I uſe two-thirds of ſpirits of wine, and one of turpentine, mixed up together; the Britiſh oil is alſo good: hounds, from blows, or other accidents, are often lame in the ſtifle: either of theſe, frequently applied, and long reſt, are the likelieſt means that I know of to recover

* Turning a hound out of the kennel will ſometimes cure a lameneſs in the ſhoulders. An attentive huntſman will perceive, from the manner of a hound's galloping, when this lameneſs takes place; and the hound ſhould be turned out immediately. Care ſhould be taken that a hound, turned out, do not become fat.

† An obſtinate lameneſs ſometimes is increaſed by humours. Phyſic, in that caſe, may be neceſſary to remove it.

them.

them. The following excellent remedy for a ſtrain, with which I have cured myſelf, and many others, I have alſo found of benefit to dogs, when ſtrained in the leg or foot.

Diſſolve two ounces of camphire in half a pint of ſpirits of wine, and put to it a bullock's gall. The part affected muſt be rubbed before the fire three or four times a day.

Sore feet are ſoon cured with brine, pot-liquor, or ſalt and vinegar, a handful of ſalt to a pint of vinegar; if neither of theſe will do, mercurial ointment may then be neceſſary. A plaſter of black pitch is the beſt cure for a thorn in either man, horſe, or dog; and I have known it ſucceed after every thing elſe had failed. If the part be much inflamed, a common poultice bound over the plaſter will aſſiſt in the cure. Hounds frequently are lame in the knee, ſometimes from bruiſes, ſometimes from the ſtab of a thorn; digeſtive ointment, rubbed in upon the part, will generally be of ſervice.*

If hounds be much troubled with worms, the following is the beſt cure that I am acquainted with:

* If the knee continue foul, bliſters and long reſt afterwards are the moſt likely means to recover it.

Of pewter, pulverized, 1 drachm 10 grs.
Of Æthiops mineral, 16 grs.

This is to be taken three times; every other day, once: the dog ſhould be kept warm, and from cold water. Whey, or pot-liquor, may be given him two or three hours after, and ſhould be continued, inſtead of meat, during the time he is taking the medicine. The beſt way of giving it is to mix it up with butter, and then to make it into balls with a little flour.

When a dog is rough in his coat, and ſcratches much, two or three purging balls, and a little reſt afterwards, ſeldom fail to get him into order again. To make dogs fine in their coats, you ſhould uſe the following dreſſing:

One pound of native ſulphur,
One quart of train oil,
One pint of oil of turpentine,
Two pounds of ſoap.

My hounds are dreſſed with it two or three times only, in a year: in ſome kennels, I am told they dreſs them once in two months. The more frequently it is done, the cleaner, I ſuppoſe, your hounds will look. Should you chooſe to dreſs your puppies before they are put out to their walks, the following receipt, which I received from a friend of mine in Staffordſhire, (the

(the perſon already mentioned in this letter, an excellent ſportſman, to whom I have many obligations) will anſwer the purpoſe beſt, and on their change of diet, from milk to meat, may be ſometimes neceſſary:

Three quarters of an ounce of quickſilver,
Half a pint of ſpirits of turpentine,
Four ounces of hog's lard,
One pound of ſoft ſoap,
Three ounces of common turpentine, in which the quickſilver muſt be killed.

Inſtinct directs dogs, when the ſtomach is out of order, to be their own phyſician; and it is from their example that we owe our knowledge how to relieve it. It may appear foreign to our preſent purpoſe; yet as it is much (if true) to the honour of animals in general, I muſt beg leave to add, what a French author tells us:—that alſo by the hippopotamus, we are inſtructed how to bleed, and by the crane, how to give a clyſter. I have already declared my diſapprobation of bleeding hounds, unleſs they abſolutely want it: when they refuſe their food, from having been over worked; or when they have taken a chill, to which they are very ſubject, then the loſs of a little blood may be of uſe to recover them. Sick hounds will recover ſooner, if ſuffered to run about the houſe, than if they be confined in the kennel.

Madneſs, thou dreadful malady; what ſhall I ſay to thee! or what preſervative ſhall I find againſt thy envenomed fang! Somervile, who declines writing of leſſer ills, is not ſilent on the ſubject of this:

> "Of leſſer ills the muſe declines to ſing,
> Nor ſtoops ſo low; of theſe each groom can tell
> The proper remedy."

I wiſh this worthy gentleman, to whom we have already been ſo much obliged, had been leſs ſparing of his inſtructions; ſince it is poſſible grooms may have all the knowledge he ſuppoſes them to have, and their maſters may ſtand in need of it. No man, I believe, will complain of being too well informed: nor is any knowledge unneceſſary which is likely to be put in practice. The executive part is fully ſufficient to truſt in the groom's hands. Somervile's advice on the ſubject of madneſs, is worthy your notice:

> "When Sirius reigns, and the ſun's parching beams
> Bake the dry gaping ſurface, viſit thou
> Each ev'n and morn, with quick obſervant eye,
> The panting pack. If in dark ſullen mood,
> The glouting hound refuſe his wonted meal,
> Retiring to ſome cloſe obſcure retreat,
> Gloomy, diſconſolate; with ſpeed remove
> The poor infectious wretch, and in ſtrong chains
> Bind him ſuſpected. Thus that dire diſeaſe
> Which art can't cure, wiſe caution may prevent."

Plenty

Plenty of water, whey, greens, phyſic, air, and exerciſe, ſuch as I have before mentioned, have hitherto preſerved my kennel from its baneful influence; and, without doubt, you will alſo find their good effects. If, notwithſtanding, you ſhould at any time have reaſon to ſuſpect the approach of this evil, let your hounds be well obſerved at the time when they feed; there will be no danger whilſt they can eat. Should a whole pack be in the ſame predicament, they muſt be chained up ſeparately; and I ſhould be very cautious what experiment I tried to cure them; for I have been told by thoſe who have had madneſs in their kennels, and who have drenched their hounds to cure it, that it was the occaſion of its breaking out a long time afterwards, and that it continued to do ſo, as long as they give them any thing to put it off.—If a few dogs only have been bitten, you had better hang them.—If you ſuſpect any, you had better ſeparate them from the reſt; and a ſhort time, if you uſe no remedy, will determine whether they really were bitten or not.—Should you, however, be deſirous of trying a remedy, the following preſcription, I am told, is a very good one:

Of Turbith's mineral eight grains,
Ditto ſixteen grains,
Ditto thirty-two grains.

This is to be given for three mornings ſucceſſively; beginning the firſt day with eight grains, and increaſing it according to the above direction. The dog ſhould be empty when he takes it, and ſhould have been bled the day before. The doſe ſhould be given early in the morning, and the dog may have ſome thin broth, or pot-liquor, about two or three o'clock, but nothing elſe during the time he takes the medicine; he ſhould alſo be kept from water. The beſt way to give it is in butter, and made up into balls with a little flour. Care muſt be taken that he does not throw it up again. After the laſt day of the medicine, he may be fed as uſual. Various are the drenches and medicines which are given for this diſorder, and all ſaid to be infallible: this laſt, however, I prefer. The whole pack belonging to a gentleman in my neighbourhood were bitten; and he aſſures me, he never knew an inſtance of a dog who went mad, that had taken this medicine.—The caution, which I have recommended to you, I flatter myſelf will preſerve you from this dreadful malady; a malady, for which I know not how to recommend a remedy. Several years ago I had a game-keeper much bitten in the fleſhy part of his thigh; a horſe, that was bitten at the ſame time, died raving mad; the man was cured by Sir George Cob's medicine.—I have heard that the Ormſkirk medicine is alſo very good. I have given it to

ſeveral

ſeveral people in my neighbourhood, and, I believe, with ſucceſs; at leaſt, I have not, as yet, heard any thing to the contrary—Though I mention theſe as the two moſt favourite remedies, I recommend neither. Somervile's advice, which I have already given, is what I recommend to you—if properly attended to, it will prevent the want of any remedy.

P. S. A Treatiſe on canine madneſs, written by Dr. James, is worth your reading. You will find, that he preſcribes the ſame remedy for the cure of madneſs in dogs, as I have mentioned here, but in different quantities. I have, however taken the liberty of recommending the quantities above-mentioned, as they have been known to ſucceed in my neighbourhood, and as the efficacy of them has been very frequently proved.

LET-

LETTER IX.

THE variety of queſtions which you are pleaſed to aſk concerning the huntſman, will, perhaps, be better anſwered, when we are on the ſubject of hunting. In the mean time, I will endeavour to deſcribe what a good huntſman ſhould be. He ſhould be young, ſtrong, active, bold and enterpriſing; fond of the diverſion, and indefatigable in the purſuit of it; he ſhould be ſenſible and good-tempered; he ought alſo to be ſober; he ſhould be exact, civil, and cleanly; he ſhould be a good horſeman, and a good groom; his voice ſhould be ſtrong and clear, and he ſhould have an eye ſo quick, as to perceive which of his hounds carries the ſcent, when all are running; and ſhould have ſo excellent an ear, as always to diſtinguiſh the foremoſt hounds, when he does not ſee them. He ſhould be quiet, patient, and without conceit. Such are the excellencies which conſtitute a good huntſman: he ſhould not, however, be too fond of diſplaying them, till neceſſity calls them forth.—He ſhould let his hounds alone, whilſt they *can hunt*, and he ſhould have genius to aſſiſt them, *when they cannot.*

With

With regard to the whipper-in, as you keep two of them, (and no pack of fox-hounds is complete without) the firſt may be conſidered as a ſecond huntſman, and ſhould have nearly the ſame good qualities. It is neceſſary beſides, that he ſhould be attentive and obedient to the huntſman; and as his horſe will probably have moſt to do, the lighter he is, the better; though if he be a good horſeman, the objection of his weight will be ſufficiently overbalanced.—He muſt not be conceited.——I had one formerly, who, inſtead of ſtopping hounds as he ought, would try to kill a fox by himſelf.—This fault is unpardonable;—he ſhould always maintain to the huntſman's halloo, and ſtop ſuch hounds as divide from it. When ſtopped, he ſhould get forward with them after the huntſman.

He muſt always be contented to act an under part, except when circumſtances may require that he ſhould act otherwiſe;* and the moment they ceaſe, he muſt not fail to reſume his former ſtation.—You have heard me ſay, that where there is much riot, I prefer an excellent whipper-in to an excellent huntſman.—The opinion, I believe, is new; I muſt therefore endeavour to explain it.

* When the huntſman cannot be up with the hounds, the whipper-in ſhould; in which caſe it is the buſineſs of the huntſman to bring on the tail hounds along with him.

My meaning is this: that I think I ſhould have better ſport, and kill more foxes with a moderate huntſman, and an excellent whipper-in, than with the beſt of huntſmen without ſuch an aſſiſtant. You will ſay, perhaps, that a good huntſman will make a good whipper-in;—not ſuch, however, as I mean;—his talent muſt be born with him. My reaſons are, that good hounds, (and bad I would not keep) often need the one than the other; and genius, which in a whipper-in, if attended by obedience, his firſt requiſite, can do no hurt; in a huntſman, is a dangerous, though a deſirable quality; and if not accompanied with a large ſhare of prudence, and I may ſay humility, will oftentimes ſpoil your ſport, and hurt your hounds. A gentleman told me that he heard the famous Will Dean, when his hounds were running hard in a line with Daventry, from whence they were at that time many miles diſtant, ſwear exceedingly at the whipper-in, ſaying, "*What buſineſs have you here?*" the man was amazed at the queſtion, "*why don't you know*" ſaid he, "*and be d---d to you, that the great earth*" *at Daventry is open?*"—The man got forward, and reached the earth juſt time enough to ſee the fox go in.—If therefore whippers-in be left at liberty to act as they ſhall think right, they are much leſs confined than the huntſman himſelf, who muſt follow his hounds; and, conſequently they

they have greater ſcope to exert their genius, if they have any.

I had a diſpute with an old ſportſman, who contended, that the whipper-in ſhould always attend the huntſman, to obey his orders; (a ſtable-boy, then, would make as good a whipper-in as the beſt) but this is ſo far from being the caſe, that he ſhould be always on the oppoſite ſide of the cover from him, or I am much miſtaken in my opinion: if within hearing of his halloo, he is near enough; for that is the hunting ſignal he is to obey.—The ſtation of the ſecond whipper-in may be near the huntſman, for which reaſon any boy that can halloo, and make a whip ſmack, may anſwer the purpoſe.

Your firſt whipper-in being able to hunt the hounds occaſionally, will anſwer another good purpoſe;—it will keep your huntſman in order. They are very apt to be impertinent when they think you cannot do without them.

When you go from the kennel, the place of the firſt whipper-in is before the hounds; that of the ſecond whipper-in ſhould be ſome diſtance behind them; if not, I doubt if they will be ſuffered even to empty themſelves, let their neceſſities be ever ſo great; for as ſoon as a boy is made a whipper-in, he fancies he is to whip the hounds

hounds whenever he can get at them, whether they deſerve it or not.

I have always thought a huntſman a happy man; his office is pleaſing, and at the ſame time flattering; we pay him for that which diverts him, and he is enriched by his greateſt pleaſure;* nor is a General after a victory, more proud, than is a huntſman who returns with his fox's head.

I have heard that a certain Duke who allowed no vails to his ſervants, aſked his huntſman what he generally made of his field-money, and gave him what he aſked, inſtead of it: this went on very well for ſome time, till at laſt the huntſman deſired an audience.—"Your Grace," ſaid he, "is very generous, and gives me more than ever "I got from field-money in my life, yet I come "to beg a favour of your Grace—that you "would let me take field-money again; for I "have not half the pleaſure now in killing a fox, "that I had before."

As you aſk me my opinion of ſcent, I think I had better give it you before we begin on the ſubject of hunting. I muſt, at the ſame time, take the liberty of telling you, that you have puzzled me exceedingly; for ſcent is, I believe, what we

* The *field-money* which is collected at the death of a fox.

ſportſmen

ſportſmen know leaſt about; and, to uſe the words of a great claſſic writer;

Hoc ſum contentus, quòd etiam ſi quo quidque fiat ignorem, quid fiat intelligo.---Cic. de div.

Somervile, who, as I have before obſerved, is the only one I know of, who has thrown any light on the ſubject of hunting, ſays, I think, but little about ſcent; I ſend you his words; I ſhall afterwards add a few of my own.

" Should ſome more curious ſportſmen here inquire,
Whence this ſagacity, this wond'rous power
Of tracing ſtep by ſtep, or man, or brute?
What guide invincible points out their way,
O'er the dark marſh, bleak hill, and ſandy plain?
The courteous muſe ſhall the dark cauſe reveal.
The blood that from the heart inceſſant rolls
In many a crimſon tide, then here, and there
In ſmaller rills diſparted, as it flows
Propell'd, the ſerous particles evade,
Thro' th' open pores, and with the ambient air
Entangling mix, as fuming vapours riſe,
And hang upon the gently purling brook,
There by the incumbent atmoſphere compreſs'd
The panting chace grows warmer as he flies,
And thro' the net-work of the ſkin perſpires;
Leaves a long—ſteaming—trail behind; which by
The cooler air condens'd remains, unleſs
By ſome rude ſtorm diſpers'd, or rarefy'd
By the meridian ſun's intenſer heat,
To every ſhrub the warm effluvia cling,
Hang on the graſs, impregnate earth and ſkies.

With

With noſtrils opening wide, o'er hill, o'er dale,
The vig'rous hounds purſue, with ev'ry breath
Inhale the grateful ſteam, quick pleaſures ſting
Their tingling nerves, while their thanks repay,
And in triumphant melody confeſs
The titillating joy. Thus on the air
Depends the hunters hopes."

I cannot agree with Mr. Somervile, in thinking that ſcent depends on the air only; it depends alſo on the ſoil. Without doubt, the beſt ſcent is that, which is occaſioned by the effluvia, as he calls it, or particles of ſcent, which are conſtantly perſpiring from the game as it runs, and are ſtrongeſt and moſt favourable to the hound, when kept by the gravity of the air, to the height of his breaſt; for then, it neither is above his reach, nor is it neceſſary that he ſhould ſtoop for it. At ſuch times, ſcent is ſaid to lie *breaſt high.* Experience tells us, that difference of ſoil occaſions difference of ſcent; and on the richneſs and moderate moiſture of the ſoil does it alſo depend, I think, as well on the air. At the time leaves begin to fall, and before they are rotted, we know that the ſcent lies ill in cover. This alone would be a ſufficient proof, that ſcent does not depend on the air only. A difference of ſcent is alſo occaſioned by difference of motion; the faſter the game goes, the leſs ſcent it leaves. When game has been ridden after, and hurried on by imprudent ſportſmen, the ſcent is leſs favourable to

hounds; one reaſon of which may be, that the particles of ſcent are then more diſſipated. But if the game ſhould have been run by a dog not belonging to the pack, ſeldom will any ſcent remain.

I believe it is very difficult to aſcertain what ſcent exactly is; I have known it alter very often in the ſame day. I believe, however, that it depends chiefly on two things, "*the condition the* "*ground is in, and the temperature of the air*; both of which, I apprehend, ſhould be moiſt, without being wet: when both are in this condition, the ſcent is then perfect; and vice verſâ, when the ground is hard, and the air dry, there ſeldom will be any ſcent.—It ſcarce ever lies with a north, or an eaſt wind; a ſoutherly wind without rain, and a weſterly wind that is not rough, are the moſt favourable.—Storms in the air are great enemies to ſcent, and ſeldom fail to take it entirely away.—A fine ſun ſhiny day is not often a good hunting day; but what the French call, *jour des dames*, warm without ſun, is generally a perfect one: there are not many ſuch in a whole ſeaſon.—In ſome fogs, I have known the ſcent lie high; in others, not at all; depending, I believe, on the quarter the wind is then in.—I have known it lie very high in a miſt, when not too wet; but if the wet ſhould hang on the boughs and buſhes, it will fall upon the ſcent, and deaden it.

When the dogs roll, the ſcent, I have frequently obſerved, ſeldom lies; for what reaſon, I know not; but, with permiſſion, if they ſmell ſtrong, when they firſt come out of the kennel, the proverb is in their favour; and that ſmell is a prognoſtic of good luck.—When cobwebs hang on the buſhes, there is ſeldom much ſcent.—During a white froſt the ſcent lies high; as it alſo does when the froſt is quite gone: at the time of its going off, ſcent never lies: it is a critical minute for hounds, in which their game is frequently loſt. In a great dew the ſcent is the ſame. In heathy countries, where the game bruſhes as it goes along, ſcent ſeldom fails. Where the ground carries, the ſcent is bad for a very evident reaſon, which hare-hunters, who purſue their game over greaſy fallows, and through dirty roads, have great cauſe to complain of.——A wet night frequently produces good chaces, as then, the game neither like to run the cover, nor the roads.—It has been often remarked, that ſcent lies beſt in the richeſt ſoils; and countries which are favourble to horſes, are ſeldom ſo to hounds. I have alſo obſerved that, in ſome particular places, let the temperature of the air be as it may, ſcent never lies.

Take not out your hounds on a very windy, or bad day.

Cook sculp

R. Fairbrother, Huntsman to Newman, Esq.r of Knavestock, Essex.

Published by J. Wheble. March 1, 1794.

" Theſe auſpicious days, on other cares
Employ thy precious hours; th' improving friend
With open arms embrace, and from his lips
Glean ſcience, ſeaſon'd with good-natur'd wit;
But if th' inclement ſkies, and angry Jove,
Forbid the pleaſing intercourſe, thy books
Invite thy ready hand, each ſacred page
Rich with the wiſe remarks of heroes old."

The ſentiments of Mr. Somervile always do him honour, but on no occaſion, more than on this.

In reading over my letter, I find I have uſed the word *ſmell*, in a ſenſe that perhaps you will criticize.——A gentleman, who, I ſuppoſe, was not the ſweeteſt in the world, ſitting in the front boxes at the play-houſe, on a crowded night, his neighbour very familiarly told him, that he *ſmelt ſtrong*:—" No, Sir," replied he, with infinite good humour,—" it is you that *ſmell*, I *ſtink*."

[The qualifications neceſſary to make a good huntſman, Mr. Beckford has dwelt upon with much ingenuity in the former part of this letter, it is therefore hoped, that our preſenting the readers of his admired production, in this place, with a portrait of one who is reputed to be the beſt in the kingdom, will be deemed appropriate; his name is RICHARD FAIRBROTHER, and hunts the pack belong-

ing to Mr. Newman, of Naveſtock, in Eſſex:—the horſe on which he is ſeated, called JOLLY ROGER, is an old favourite, having carried him through ſome of the ſevereſt chaces ever known.]

LET-

LETTER X.

I THOUGHT that I had been writing all this time to a fox-hunter; and hitherto my letters have had no other object. I now receive a letter from you, full of queſtions about hare-hunting; to all of which you expect an anſwer. I muſt tell you, at the ſame time, that though I kept harriers many years, it was not my intention, if you had not aſked it, to have written on the ſubject. By inclination, I was never a hare-hunter; I followed this diverſion more for air and exerciſe, than amuſement; and if I could have perſuaded myſelf to ride on the turnpike road to the three-mile ſtone, and back again, I ſhould have thought that I had had no need of a pack of harriers.—Excuſe me, brother hare-hunters! I mean not to offend; I ſpeak but relatively to my own particular ſituation in the country, where hare-hunting is ſo bad, that it is more extraordinary I ſhould have perſevered in it ſo long, than that I ſhould forſake it now. I reſpect hunting in whatever ſhape it appears; it is a manly, and a wholeſome exerciſe, and ſeems, by nature, deſigned to be the amuſement of a Briton.

You aſk, how many hounds a pack of harriers ſhould conſiſt of? and what kind of hound

is beſt ſuited to that diverſion?——You ſhould never exceed twenty couple in the field; it might be difficult to get a greater number to run well together, and a pack of harriers cannot be complete if they do not:* beſides, the fewer hounds you have, the leſs you foil the ground, which you otherwiſe would find a great hindrance to your hunting.——Your other queſtion is not eaſily anſwered; the hounds, I think, moſt likely to ſhew you ſport, are between the large ſlow hunting harrier, and the little fox beagle: the former are too dull, too heavy, and too ſlow; the latter, too lively, too light, and too fleet. The firſt ſpecies, it is true, have moſt excellent noſes, and I make no doubt, will kill their game at laſt, if the day be long enough; but, you know, the days are ſhort in winter, and it is bad hunting in the dark. The other, on the contrary, fling and daſh, and are all alive; but every cold blaſt affects them, and if your country be deep and wet, it is not impoſſible that ſome of them may be drowned. My hounds were a croſs of both theſe kinds, in which it was my endeavour to get as much bone and ſtrength, in as ſmall a compaſs as poſſible.——It was a difficult undertaking.—

* A hound that runs too faſt for the reſt, ought not to be kept. Some huntſmen load them with heavy collars; ſome tie a long ſtrap round their necks; a better way would be to part with them. Whether they go too ſlow, or too faſt, they ought equally to be drafted.

I bred

I bred many years, and an infinity of hounds, before I could get what I wanted: I, at laſt, had the pleaſure to ſee them very handſome; ſmall, yet very bony; they ran remarkably well together; ran faſt enough; had all the alacrity that you could deſire, and would hunt the coldeſt ſcent.—When they were thus perfect, I did, as many others do—I parted with them.

It may be neceſſary to unſay, now that I am turned hare-hunter again, many things I have been ſaying, as a fox-hunter; as I hardly know any two things of the ſame genus, (if I may be allowed the expreſſion) that differ ſo entirely. What I ſaid in a former letter, about the huntſman and whipper-in, is in the number: as to the huntſman, he ſhould not be young: I ſhould moſt certainly prefer one, as the French call it, *d'un certain age*, as he is to be quiet and patient; for patience, he ſhould be a very Grizzle; and the more quiet he is, the better. He ſhould have infinite perſeverance; for a hare ſhould never be given up, whilſt it is poſſible to hunt her: ſhe is ſure to ſtop, and therefore may always be recovered. Were it uſual to attend to the breed of our huntſmen, as well as to that of our hounds, I know no family that would furniſh a better croſs than that of the *ſilent gentleman*, mentioned by the Spectator: a female of his line, croſſed

with a knowing huntſman, would probably produce a perfect hare-hunter.

The whipper-in alſo has little to do with him, whom I before deſcribed: yet he may be like the ſecond whipper-in to a pack of fox-hounds; the ſtable-boy who is to follow the huntſman: but I would have him ſtill more confined, for he ſhould not dare even to ſtop a hound, or ſmack a whip, without the huntſman's order. Much noiſe and rattle is directly contrary to the firſt principles of hare-hunting, which is, to be perfectly quiet, and to let your hounds alone. I have ſeen few hounds ſo good as town packs, that have no profeſſed huntſman to follow them. If they have no one to aſſiſt them, they have at the ſame time, no one to interrupt them; which, I believe, for this kind of hunting, is ſtill more material. I ſhould, however, mention a fault I have obſerved, and which ſuch hounds muſt of neceſſity ſometimes be guilty of; that is, *running back the heel*. Hounds are naturally fond of ſcent; if they cannot carry it forward, they will turn, and hunt it back again: hounds, that are left to themſelves, make a fault of this; and it is, I think, the only one they commonly have.—Though it be certainly beſt to let your hounds alone, and thereby to give as much ſcope to their natural inſtinct, as you can; yet, in this particular inſtance, you ſhould check it mildly; for, as it is almoſt an invariable

invariable rule in all hunting, to make the head good, you ſhould encourage them to try forward firſt; which may be done without taking them off their noſes, or without the leaſt prejudice to their hunting. If trying forward ſhould not ſucceed, they may then be ſuffered to try back again, which you will find them all ready enough to do; for they are ſenſible how far they brought the ſcent, and where they left it. The love of ſcent is natural to them, and they have infinitely more ſagacity in it than we ought to pretend to—I have no doubt, that they often think us very obſtinate, and very fooliſh.

Harriers, to be good, like all other hounds, muſt be kept to their own game: if you run fox with them, you ſpoil them: hounds cannot be perfect unleſs uſed to one ſcent and one ſtile of hunting. Harriers run fox in ſo different a ſtile from hare, that it is of great diſſervice to them when they return to hare again; it makes them wild, and teaches them to ſkirt. The high ſcent which a fox leaves, the ſtraightneſs of his running, the eagerneſs of the purſuit, and the noiſe that generally accompanies it, all contribute to ſpoil a harrier.

I hope you agree with me, that it is a fault in a pack of harriers to go too faſt; for a hare is a little timorous animal, which we cannot help feeling

feeling ſome compaſſion for, at the very time when we are purſuing her deſtruction: we ſhould give ſcope to all her little tricks, nor kill her foully and over-matched.* Inſtinct inſtructs her to make a good defence when not unfairly treated; and I will venture to ſay, that, as far as her own ſafety is concerned, ſhe has more cunning than the fox, and makes many ſhifts to ſave her life, far beyond all his artifice. Without doubt, you have often heard of hares, who, from the miraculous eſcapes they have made, have been thought *witches*; but, I believe, you never heard of a fox that had cunning enough to be thought a *wizard*.

They who like to riſe early have amuſement in ſeeing the hare trailed to her form; it is of great ſervice to hounds; it alſo ſhews their goodneſs to the huntſman more than any other hunting, as it diſcovers to him thoſe who have the moſt tender noſes. But, I confeſs, I ſeldom judged it worth while to leave my bed a moment ſooner on that

* The critic terms this "a mode of deſtruction ſomewhat beyond brutal." (Vide Monthly Review.) I ſhall not pretend to juſtify that conventional cruelty, which ſeems ſo univerſally to prevail—neither will I aſk the gentleman, who is ſo ſevere on me, why he feeds the lamb, and afterwards cuts his throat; I mean only to conſider cruelty under the narrow limits which concern hunting—if it may be defined to be, a pleaſure which reſults from giving pain, then certainly a ſportſman is much leſs cruel than he is thought.

Hare Hunting, _ Plate, 5.st

GOING OUT IN THE MORNING.

Publish'd Jan.y 1.st 1700 by J. Whelle Warwick Court London

account. I always thought hare-hunting ſhould be taken as a ride after breakfaſt, to get us an appetite to our dinner. If you make a ſerious buſineſs of it, you ſpoil it. Hare-finders, in this caſe, are neceſſary: it is agreeable to know where to go immediately for your diverſion, and not beat about, for hours perhaps, before you find. It is more material with regard to the ſecond hare than the firſt; for if you are warmed with your gallop, the waiting long in the cold afterwards is, I believe, as unwholeſome as it is diſagreeable. Whoever does not mind this, had better let his hounds find their own game; they will certainly hunt it with more ſpirit afterwards, and he will have a pleaſure himſelf in expectation which no certainty can ever give. Hare-finders make hounds idle; they alſo make them wild. Mine knew the men as well as I did myſelf, could ſee them as far, and would run, full cry, to meet them. Hare-finders are of one great uſe; they hinder your hounds from chopping hares, which they, otherwiſe, could not fail to do. I had in my pack one hound in particular that was famous for it; he would challenge on a trail very late at noon, and had a good knack at chopping a hare afterwards; he was one that liked to go the ſhorteſt way to work, nor did he chooſe to take more trouble than was neceſſary.—Is it not wonderful, that the trail of a hare ſhould lie after ſo many

many hours, when the ſcent of her dies away ſo ſoon?

Hares are ſaid (I know not with what truth) to foreſee a change of weather, and to ſeat themſelves accordingly. This is however certain, that they are ſeldom found in places much expoſed to the wind. In incloſures they more frequently are found near to a hedge than in the middle of a field. They who make a profeſſion of hare-finding (and a very advantageous one it is in ſome countries) are directed by the wind where to look for their game. With good eyes and nice obſervation they are enabled to find them in any weather. You may make forms, and hares will ſit in them. I have heard it is a common practice with ſhepherds on the Wiltſhire downs; and, by making them on the ſide of hills, they can tell at a diſtance off, whether there are hares in them or not. Without doubt people frequently do not find hares, from not knowing them in their forms. A gentleman, courſing with his friends, was ſhewn a hare that was found ſitting—"*Is that* "*a hare?*" he cried, "*then, by Jove, I found two* "*this morning as we rode along.*"

Though the talent of hare-finding is certainly of uſe, and the money collected for it, when given to ſhepherds, is money well beſtowed by ſportſman, as it tends to the preſervation of his game

Hare Hunting Plate 3d

Howitt sculp.

FINDING THE HARE.

Published as the Act directs by I. Wheble, Warwick Square, March 1st 1796.

game, yet I think, when it is indiſcriminately given, that hare-finders are often too well paid. I have known them frequently get more than a guinea for a ſingle hare. I myſelf have paid five ſhillings in a morning for hares found ſitting. To make our companions pay dearly for their diverſion, and oftentimes ſo much more than it is worth; to take from the pockets of men who oftentimes can ill afford it, as much as would pay for a good dinner afterwards, is, in my opinion, an ungenerous cuſtom; and this conſideration induced me to collect but once, with my hounds, for the hare-finders. The money was afterwards divided amongſt them, and if they had leſs than half a crown each, I myſelf ſupplied the deficiency.—An old miſer, who had paid his ſhilling, complained bitterly of it afterwards, and ſaid, "*he had been made to pay a ſhilling for two penny-worth of ſport.*"

When the game is found you cannot be too quiet: the hare is an animal ſo very timorous, that ſhe is frequently headed back, and your dogs are liable to over-run the ſcent at every inſtant; it is beſt, therefore, to keep a conſiderable way behind them, that they may have room to turn as ſoon as they perceive they have loſt the ſcent; and, if treated in this manner, they will ſeldom over-run it much. Your hounds, through the whole chace, ſhould be left almoſt entirely to them-

themſelves, nor ſhould they be hallooed much: when the hare doubles, they ſhould hunt through thoſe doubles; nor is a hare hunted fairly when hunted otherwiſe. They ſhould follow her every ſtep ſhe takes, as well over greaſy fallows as through flocks of ſheep; nor ſhould they ever be caſt, but when nothing can be done without it. I know a gentleman, a pleaſant ſportſman, but a very irregular hare-hunter, who does not exactly follow the method here laid down. As his method is very extraordinary I will relate it to you:—His hounds are large and fleet; they have at times hunted every thing; red deer, fallow deer, fox, and hare; and muſt in their nature have been moſt excellent, ſince, notwithſtanding the variety of their game, they are ſtill good. When a hare is found ſitting, he ſeldom fails to give his hounds a view; and as the men all halloo, and make what noiſe they can, ſhe is half frightened to death immediately. This done, he then ſends his whipper-in to ride after her, with particular directions not to let her get out of his ſight; and he has found out, that this is the only proper uſe of a whipper-in. If they come to a piece of fallow, or a flock of ſheep, the hounds are not ſuffered to hunt any longer, but are capped and hallooed as near to the hare as poſſible; by this time the poor devil is near her end, which the next view generally finiſhes; the ſtrongeſt hare, in this manner, ſeldom ſtanding twenty minutes;

minutes; but, my friend ſays, a hare is good eating, and he therefore thinks, that he cannot kill too many of them. By what Martial ſays, I ſuppoſe *he* was of the ſame opinion,

" Inter quadrupedes gloria prima lepus."

A propos to eating them.—I muſt tell you, that in the Encyclopedie, a book of univerſal knowledge, where, of courſe, I expected to find ſomething on hunting, which might be of ſervice to you, as a ſportſman, to know, I found the following advice about the dreſſing of a hare, which may be of uſe to your cook; and the regard I have for your health will not ſuffer me to conceal it from you.—" *On mange le levraut roti dans* " *quelques provinces du royaume, en Gaſcogne et en* " *Languedoc, par exemple, avec une ſauce compoſée* " *de vinaigre et de ſucre, qui eſt mauvaiſe, malſaine* " *en ſoi eſſentiellement, mais qui eſt ſurtout abomina-* " *ble pour tous ceux qui n'y ſont pas accoutumés.*" You, without doubt, therefore, will think yourſelf obliged to the authors of the Encyclopedie for their kind and friendly information.

Having heard of a ſmall pack of beagles to be diſpoſed of in Derbyſhire, I ſent my coachman, the perſon whom I could at that time beſt ſpare, to fetch them. It was a long journey, and not having been uſed to hounds, he had ſome trouble in getting them along; alſo, as ill-luck would have

have it, they had not been out of the kennel for many weeks before, and were ſo riotous, that they ran after every thing they ſaw; ſheep, cur-dogs, and birds of all ſorts, as well as hares and deer, I found, had been his amuſement, all the way along: however, he loſt but one hound; and when I aſked him what he thought of them, he ſaid—"they could not fail of being good "hounds, for they would hunt *any thing*."

In your anſwer to my laſt letter, you aſk, of what ſervice it can be to a huntſman to be a good groom? and, whether I think he will hunt hounds the better for it?—I wonder you did not aſk, why he ſhould be *cleanly?*—I ſhould be more at a loſs how to anſwer you. My huntſman has always the care of his own horſes; I never yet knew one who did not think himſelf capable of it; it is for that reaſon I wiſh him to be a *good groom.*

You ſay, that you cannot ſee how a huntſman of genius can ſpoil your ſport, or hurt your hounds? —I will tell you how:—by too much foul play he frequently will catch a fox before he is half tired; and by lifting his hounds too much, he will teach them to ſhuffle.—An improper uſe of the one may ſpoil your ſport; too frequent uſe of the other muſt hurt your hounds.

LET-

Hare Hunting, Plate 2d

Howitt sc.

TRYING FOR A HARE,

Publish'd Feb.y 1st 1796, by J. Wheble, Warwick Court, London

LETTER XI.

I HAVE already obſerved, that a trail in the morning is of great ſervice to hounds; and, that to be perfect, they ſhould always find their own game: for the method of hare-finding, though more convenient, will occaſion ſome vices in them which it will be impoſſible to correct.

Mr. Somervile's authority ſtrengthens my obſervation; that, when a hare is found, all ſhould be quiet: nor ſhould you ride near your hounds, till they are well ſettled to the ſcent.

> " ——————————let all be huſh'd,
> No clamour loud, no frantic joy be heard;
> Leſt the wild hound run gadding o'er the plain
> Untractable, nor hear thy chiding voice."

The natural eagerneſs of the hounds will, at ſuch a time, frequently carry even the beſt of them wide of the ſcent; which too much encouragement, or preſſing too cloſe upon them, may continue beyond all poſſibility of recovery: this ſhould be always guarded againſt. After a little while, you have leſs to fear. You may then approach them nearer, and encourage them

more: leaving, however, at all times, ſufficient room for them to turn, ſhould they over-run the ſcent. On high roads and dry paths be always doubtful of the ſcent, nor give them much encouragement; but when a hit is made on either ſide, you may halloo as much as you pleaſe; nor can you then encourage your hounds too much. A hare generally deſcribes a circle as ſhe runs; larger or leſs, according to her ſtrength, and the openneſs of the country. In incloſures, and where there is much cover, the circle is for the moſt part ſo ſmall that it is a conſtant puzzle to the hounds. They have a Gordian knot, in that caſe, ever to unlooſe; and though it may afford matter of ſpeculation to the philoſopher, it is always contrary to the wiſhes of the ſportſman. Such was the country I hunted in for many years.

> "Huntſman! her gait obſerve: if in wide rings
> She wheels her mazy way, in the ſame round
> Perſiſting ſtill, ſhe'll foil the beaten track.
> But if ſhe fly, and with the fav'ring wind
> Urge her bold courſe, leſs intricate thy taſk:
> Puſh on thy pack."
>
> SOMERVILE.

Beſides running the foil, they frequently make doubles, which is going forward, to tread the ſame ſteps back again, on purpoſe to confuſe their purſuers: and the ſame manner in which they make the firſt double, they generally continue,

Hare Hunting. Plate 5th

Howitt del et sc.

HARE IN VIEW.

Published as the Act directs by I. Wheble, Warwick Square April 1st 1790.

Hare Hunting, Plate, 5th

Howitt. i. et. c.

HITTING HER OFF,
at a Fault.

nue, whether long or ſhort. This information, therefore, if properly attended to by the huntſman, may be of uſe to him in his caſts.

When they make their double on a high road, or dry path, and then leave it with a ſpring, it is often the occaſion of a long fault: the ſpring which a hare makes on theſe occaſions is hardly to be credited, any more than is her ingenuity in making it; both are wonderful!

" ——————— let cavillers deny
That brutes have reaſon; ſure 'tis ſomething more:
'Tis Heaven directs and ſtratagems inſpire,
Beyond the ſhort extent of human thought."

SOMERVILE.

She frequently, after running a path a conſiderable way, will make a double, and then ſtop till the hounds have paſt her; ſhe will then ſteal away as ſecretly as ſhe can, and return the ſame way ſhe came. This is the greateſt of all trials for hounds. It is ſo hot a foil, that in the beſt packs there are not many hounds that can hunt it; you muſt follow thoſe hounds that can, and try to hit her off where ſhe breaks her foil, which in all probability ſhe will ſoon do, as ſhe now flatters herſelf ſhe is ſecure. When the ſcent lies bad in cover, ſhe will ſometimes ſeem to hunt the hounds.

" ——————— The covert's utmoſt bound
Slily ſhe ſkirts; behind them cautious creeps,
And in that very track, ſo lately ſtain'd
By all the ſteaming crowd, ſeems to purſue
The foe ſhe flies."— SOMERVILE.

When the hounds are at a check, make your huntſman ſtand ſtill, nor ſuffer him to move his horſe one way or the other: hounds lean naturally toward the ſcent, and if you ſay not a word to them, will ſoon recover it. If you ſpeak to a hound at ſuch a time, calling him by his name, which is too much the practice, he ſeldom fails to look up in your face, as much as to ſay, *what the deuce do you want?*—when he ſtoops to the ſcent again, is it not probable that he means to ſay, *You fool, you, let me alone.*

When your hounds are at fault, let not a word be ſaid: let ſuch as follow them ignorantly and unworthily ſtand all aloof—*Procul, O procul eſte profani!* for whilſt ſuch are chattering, not a hound will hunt. *A propos*, Sir, a politician will ſay—What news from America? *A propos*—Do you think both the admirals will be tried? Or, *propos*—Did you hear what has happened to my grandmother? Such queſtions are, at ſuch a time, extremely troubleſome, and very *mal-à-propos*. Amongſt the ancients, it was reckoned *an ill omen* to ſpeak in hunting—I wiſh it were thought ſo now. *Hoc age* ſhould be one of

of the firſt maxims in hunting, as in life; and I can aſſure you, when I am in the field, I never wiſh to hear any other tongue than that of a hound. A neighbour of mine was ſo truly a hare-hunter in this particular, that he would not ſuffer any body to ſpeak a word when his hounds were at fault: a gentleman happened to cough; he rode up to him immediately, and ſaid, "*I wiſh, Sir, with all my heart, that your cough* "*was better.*"

In a good day, good hounds ſeldom give up the ſcent at head; if they do, there is generally an obvious reaſon for it: this obſervation a huntſman ſhould always make; it will direct his caſt. If he be a good one, he will attend, as he goes, not only to his hounds, nicely obſerving which have the lead, and the degree of ſcent they carry; but alſo to the various circumſtances that are continually happening from change of weather, and difference of ground. He will likewiſe be mindful of the diſtance which the hare keeps before the hounds, and of her former doubles; he will alſo remark what point ſhe makes to. All theſe obſervations will be of uſe, if a long fault make his aſſiſtance neceſſary; and if the hare ſhould have headed back, he will carefully obſerve whether ſhe met with any thing in her courſe to turn her, or turned of her own accord. When he caſts his hounds, let him begin by making a ſmall

circle; if that will not do, then let him try a larger; he afterwards may be at liberty to perſevere in any caſt he ſhall judge moſt likely. As a hare generally reviſits her old haunts, and returns to the place where ſhe was firſt found, if the ſcent be quite gone, and the hounds can no longer hunt; *that* is as likely a caſt as any to recover her. Let him remember, in all his caſts, that the hounds are not to follow his horſe's heels, nor are they to carry their heads high, and noſes in the air. At theſe times they muſt try for the ſcent, or they will never find it; and he is either to make his caſt quick or ſlow, as he perceives his hounds try, and as the ſcent is either good or bad.

Give particular directions to your huntſman to prevent his hounds, as much as he can, from chopping hares. Huntſmen like to get blood at any rate; and when hounds are uſed to it, it would ſurprize you to ſee how attentive they are to find opportunities. A hare muſt be very wild, or very nimble, to eſcape them. I remember, in a furzy country, that my hounds chopped three hares in one morning; for it is the nature of thoſe animals either to leap up before the hounds come near them, and *ſteal away*, as it is called, or elſe to lie cloſe, till they put their very noſes upon them. Hedges, alſo, are very dangerous; if the huntſman beat the hedge himſelf, which

is

Hare Hunting, Plate, 6.th

Howitt.i.et.c.

THE DEATH.

is the uſual practice, the hounds are always upon the watch, and a hare muſt have good luck to eſcape them all. The beſt way to prevent it, is to have the hedge well beaten at ſome diſtance before the hounds.

Hares ſeldom run ſo well as when they do not know where they are. They run well in a fog, and generally take a good country. If they ſet off down the wind, they ſeldom return: you then cannot puſh on your hounds too much. When the game is ſinking, you will perceive your old hounds get forward; they then will run at head.

"Happy the man, who with unrivall'd ſpeed
Can paſs his fellows, and with pleaſure view
The ſtruggling pack; how in the rapid courſe
Alternate they preſide, and joſtling puſh
To guide the dubious ſcent; how giddy youth
Oft babbling errs, by wiſer age reprov'd;
How, niggard of his ſtrength, the wiſe old hound
Hangs in the rear, till ſome important point
Rouſe all his diligence, or till the chace
Sinking he finds; then to the head he ſprings,
With thirſt of glory fir'd, and wins the prize."

SOMERVILE.

Keep no babblers; for though the pack ſoon find them out, and mind them not, yet it is unpleaſant to hear their noiſe; nor are ſuch fit companions for the reſt.

Though the Spectator makes us laugh at the oddity of his friend, Sir Roger, for returning a hound, which he said was an excellent *bass*, because he wanted a *counter-tenor*; yet I am of opinion, that if we attended more to the variety of notes frequently to be met with in the tongues of hounds, it might greatly add to the harmony of the pack. I do not know that a complete concert could be attained, but it would be easy to prevent discordant sounds.

Keep no hound that runs false: the loss of one hare is more than such a dog is worth.

It is but reasonable to give your hounds a hare sometimes: I always gave mine the last they killed, if I thought they deserved her.

It is too much the custom, first to ride over a dog, and then cry, *ware horse*. Take care not to ride over your hounds; I have known many a good dog spoiled by it: in open ground caution them first; you may afterwards ride over them, if you please; but in roads and paths they frequently cannot get out of your way; it surely, then, is your business either to stop your horse or break a way for them, and the not doing it, give me leave to say, is not less absurd than cruel; nor can that man be called a good sportsman who thus wantonly destroys his own sport. Indeed,

good

good ſportſmen ſeldom ride on the line of the tail hounds.

An acquaintance of mine, when he hears any of his ſervants ſay, *ware horſe!* halloos out—ware horſe!—*ware dog!* and be hanged to you.

You aſk how my warren hares are caught?—it ſhall be the ſubject of my next letter.

LET-

LETTER XII.

YOU wiſh to know how my warren hares are caught? they are caught in traps, not unlike to the common rat-traps. I leave mine always at the meuſes, but they are *ſet* only when hares are wanted: the hares, by thus conſtantly going through them, have no miſtruſt, and are eaſily caught. Theſe traps ſhould be made of old wood, and even then it will be ſome time before they will venture through them. Other meuſes muſt be alſo left open, leſt a diſtaſte ſhould make them forſake the place. To my warren I have about twenty of theſe traps; though, as the ſtock of hares is great, I ſeldom have occaſion to ſet more than five or ſix, and ſcarcely ever fail of catching as many hares. The warren is paled in, but I found it neceſſary to make the meuſes of brick; that is, where the traps are placed. Should you at any time wiſh to make a hare-warren, it will be neceſſary for you to ſee one firſt, and examine the traps, boxes, and ſtoppers, to all which there are particularities not eaſy to be deſcribed. Should you perceive the hares, towards the end of the ſeaſon, to become ſhy of the traps, from having been

been often caught, it will be neceſſary to drive them in with ſpaniels. Should this be the caſe, you will find them very thick round the warren; for the warren-hares will be unwilling to leave it, and when diſturbed by dogs will immediately go in.

If you turn them out before greyhounds, you cannot give them too much law; if before hounds, you cannot give them too little; for reaſons which I will preſently add. Though hares, as I told you before, never run ſo well before hounds as when they do not know where they are, yet, before greyhounds, it is the reverſe; and your trap-hares, to run well, ſhould always be turned out within their knowledge: they are naturally timid, and are eaſily diſheartened, when they have no point to make to for ſafety.

If you turn out any before your hounds, (which, if it be not your wiſh, I ſhall by no means recommend) give them not much time, but lay on your hounds as ſoon as they are out of view; if you do not, they will be likely to ſtop, which is oftentimes fatal. Views are at all times to be avoided, but particularly with trap-hares; for, as theſe know not where they are, the hounds have too great an advantage over them. It is beſt to turn them down the wind; they hear the hounds better, and ſeldom turn

again. Hounds, for this buſineſs, ſhould not be too fleet. Theſe hares run ſtraight, and make no doubles; they leave a ſtrong ſcent, and have other objections in common with animals turned out before hounds: they may give you a gallop, they will, however, ſhew but little hunting.—The hounds are to be hunted like a pack of fox-hounds, as a trap-hare runs very much in the ſame manner, and will even top the hedges. What I ſhould prefer to catching the hares in traps, would be, a warren in the midſt of an open country, which might be ſtopped cloſe on hunting-days. This would ſupply the whole country with hares, which, after one turn round the warren, would moſt probably run ſtraight at end. The number of hares which a warren will ſupply is hardly to be conceived; I ſeldom turned out leſs in one year than thirty brace of trap-hares, beſides many others killed in the environs, of which no account was taken. My warren is a wood of near thirty acres; one of half the ſize would anſwer the purpoſe perhaps as well. Mine is cut out into many walks; a ſmaller warren ſhould have only *one*, and *that* round the outſide of it. No dog ſhould ever be ſuffered to go into it, and traps ſhould be conſtantly ſet for ſtoats and polecats. It is ſaid parſley makes hares ſtrong; they certainly are very fond of eating it: it therefore cannot be amiſs to

ſow

ſow ſome about the warren, as it may be the means of keeping your hares more at home.

I had once ſome converſation with a gentleman about the running of my trap-hares, who ſaid he had been told that catching a hare, and tying *a piece of ribbon to her ear*, was a ſure way to make her run *ſtrait*.---I make no doubt of it---and ſo would *a caniſter tyed to her tail*.

I am ſorry you ſhould think I began my firſt letter on the ſubject of hare-hunting in a manner that might offend any of my brother ſportſmen. It was not hare-hunting I meant to depreciate, but the country I had hunted hare in.—It is good diverſion in a good country:—you are always certain of ſport; and if you really love to ſee your hounds hunt; the hare, when properly hunted, will ſhew you more of it, than any other animal.

You aſk me, what is the right time to leave off hare-hunting?—You ſhould be guided in that by the ſeaſon: you ſhould never hunt after March; and, if the ſeaſon be forward, you ſhould leave off ſooner.

Having now ſo conſiderably exceeded the plan I firſt propoſed, you may wonder, if I omit to ſay any thing of *ſtag-hunting*. Believe me, if I do, it will not be for want of reſpect; but becauſe I have

have ſeen very little of it. It is true, I hunted two winters at Turin; but their hunting, you know, is no more like our's, than is the hot meal we *there* ſtood up to eat, to the Engliſh breakfaſt we ſit down to *here*.—Were I to deſcribe their manner of hunting, their infinity of dogs, their number of huntſmen, their relays of horſes, their great ſaddles, great bitts, and jack boots, it would be no more to our preſent purpoſe, than the deſcription of a wild boar chaſe in Germany, or the hunting of jackalls in Bengal. *C'eſt une chaſſe magnifique, et voila tout.*—However, to give you an idea of their huntſmen, I muſt tell you that one day the ſtag, which is very unuſual, broke cover and left the foreſt; a circumſtance, which gave as much pleaſure to me, as diſpleaſure to all the reſt—it put every thing into confuſion. I followed one of the huntſmen, thinking he knew the country beſt, but it was not long before we were ſeparated; the firſt ditch we came to ſtopped him: I, eager to go on, hallooed out to him, *allons, Piqueur, ſautez donc.*---"*Non pardi,*" replied he, very coolly, "*c'eſt un double foſſé---je ne "ſaute pas des doubles foſſés.*——There was alſo an odd accident the ſame day, which, has it happened to a great man, even to the King himſelf, you may think intereſting; beſides, it was the occaſion of a *bon mot* worth your hearing.—The King, eager in the purſuit, rode into a bog, and was diſmounted—he was not hurt—he was ſoon

on

on his legs, and we were all ſtanding round him. One of his old generals, who was at ſome diſtance, behind, no ſooner ſaw the king off his horſe, but he rode up full gallop to know the cauſe, " *Qu'eſt* " *ce que c'eſt? qu'eſt ce que c'eſt?*" cries the good old general, and in he tumbles into the ſame bog. Count Kevenhuller, with great humour replied, pointing to the place, " *voila ce que c'eſt! voila ce* " *que c'eſt.*"

With regard to the ſtag-hunting in this country, as I have already told you, that I know but little of it; but you will, without doubt, think it a ſufficient reaſon for my being ſilent concerning it.

LET-

LETTER XIII.

IN ſome of the preceding letters we have, I think, ſettled the buſineſs of the kennel in all its parts; and determined what ſhould be the number, and what the qualifications of the attendants on the hounds: we alſo agree in opinion, that a pack ſhould conſiſt of about twenty-five couple; I ſhall now proceed to give ſome account of the uſe of them. You deſire that I would be as particular, as if you were to hunt the hounds yourſelf: to obey you, therefore, I think I had better ſend you a deſcription of an imaginary chace, in which I ſhall be at liberty to deſcribe ſuch events as probably may happen, and to which your preſent inquiries ſeem moſt to lead; a further and more circumſtantial explanation of them will neceſſarily become the ſubject of my future letters. I am, at the ſame time, well aware of the difficulties attending ſuch an undertaking. A fox-chace is not eaſy to be deſcribed—yet as even a faint deſcription of it may ſerve, to a certain degree, as an anſwer to the various queſtions which you are pleaſed to make concerning that diverſion, I ſhall proſecute my attempt in ſuch a manner, as I think may ſuit your purpoſe beſt.—As I fear it may read ill, it ſhall

ſhall not be long. A gentleman, to whoſe underſtanding nature had moſt evidently been ſparing of her gifts, as often as he took up a book, and met with a paſſage which he could not comprehend, was uſed to write in the margin oppoſite *matiere embrouillée*, and gave himſelf no further concern about it. As different cauſes have been known to produce the ſame effects, ſhould *you* treat *me* in like manner, I ſhall think it the ſevereſt cenſure that can be paſſed upon me. Our friend Somervile, I apprehend, was no great fox-hunter; yet all he ſays on the ſubject of hunting is ſo ſenſible and juſt, that I ſhall turn to his account of fox-hunting, and quote it where I can. The hour moſt favourable to the diverſion, is certainly an early one; nor do I think I can fix it better than to ſay, the hounds ſhould be at the cover at ſun-riſing. Let us ſuppoſe that we are arrived at the cover ſide.——

" —————— Delightful ſcene!
Where all around is gay, men, horſes, dogs;
And in each ſmiling countenance appears
Freſh blooming health, and univerſal joy."

SOMERVILE.

Now let your huntſman throw in his hounds as quietly as he can, and let the two whippers-in keep wide of him on either ſide, ſo that a ſingle hound may not eſcape them; let them be attentive to his halloo, and be ready to encourage, or

rate, as that directs; he will, of courſe, draw up the wind, for reaſons which I ſhall give in another place.—Now, if you can keep your brother ſportſmen in order, and put any diſcretion into them, you are in luck; they more frequently do harm than good: if it be poſſible, perſuade thoſe who wiſh to halloo the fox off, to ſtand quiet under the cover ſide, and on no account to halloo him too ſoon; if they do, he moſt certainly will turn back again: could you entice them all into the cover, your ſport, in all probability, would not be the worſe for it.

How well the hounds ſpread the cover! the huntſman, you ſee, is quite deſerted, and his horſe, who ſo lately had a crowd at his heels, has not now one attendant left. How ſteadily they draw! you hear not a ſingle hound; yet none are idle. Is not this better than to be ſubject to continual diſappointment, from the eternal babbling of unſteady hounds?

"——————— See! how they range
Diſpers'd, how buſily this way and that,
They croſs, examining with curious noſe
Each likely haunt. Hark! on the drag I hear
Their doubtful notes, preluding to a cry
More nobly full, and ſwell'd with every mouth."

SOMERVILE.

How

Cook fec

DRAWING COVER.

Published Dec.r 1.st 1794 by J. Wheeble, Warwick Square, Warwick Lane, LONDON.

Cook Sculp.

BREAKING COVER.

— *Publish'd by I. Wheble, Warwick-Square, January 1.st 1795.* —

How muſical their tongues!—And as they get nearer to him, how the chorus fills!—Hark! he is found.—Now, where are all your ſorrows, and your cares, ye gloomy ſouls! Or where your pains, and aches, ye complaining ones! one halloo has diſpelled them all.—What a craſh they make! and echo ſeemingly takes pleaſure to repeat the ſound. The aſtoniſhed traveller forſakes his road, lured by its melody; the liſtening plowman now ſtops his plow; and every diſtant ſhepherd neglects his flock, and runs to ſee him break.—What joy! what eagerneſs in every face!

"How happy art thou, man, when thou'rt no more
Thyſelf! when all the pangs that grind thy ſoul,
In rapture and in ſweet oblivion loſt,
Yield a ſhort interval, and eaſe from pain!"

SOMERVILE.

Mark how he runs the cover's utmoſt limits, yet dares not venture forth; the hounds are ſtill too near!—That check is lucky!—now, if our friends head him not, he will ſoon be off—hark! they halloo: by G—d he's gone!

"———————— Hark! what loud ſhouts
Re-echo thro' the groves! he breaks away:
Shrill horns proclaim his flight. Each ſtraggling hound
Strains o'er the lawn to reach the diſtant pack.
'Tis triumph all, and joy."

SOMERVILE.

Now huntſman get on with the head hounds; the whipper-in will bring on the others after you: keep an attentive eye on the leading hounds, that ſhould the ſcent fail them, you may know at leaſt how far they brought it.

Mnid *Galloper*, how he leads them!—It is difficult to diſtinguiſh which is firſt, they run in ſuch a ſtile; yet *he* is the foremoſt hound.—The goodneſs of his noſe is not leſs excellent than his ſpeed:—how he carries the ſcent! and when he loſes it, ſee how eagerly he flings to recover it again!—There—now he's at head again!—ſee how they top the hedge!——Now, how they mount the hill!——Obſerve what a head they carry, and ſhew me, if thou canſt, one ſhuffler or ſkirter amongſt them all: are they not like a parcel of brave fellows, who, when they engage in an undertaking, determine to ſhare its fatigue and its dangers, equally amongſt them?

" ——— Far o'er the rocky hills we range,
And dangerous our courſe; but in the brave
True courage never fails. In vain the ſtream
In foaming eddies whirls, in vain the ditch
Wide gaping threatens death. The craggy ſteep,
Where the poor dizzy ſhepherd crawls with care,
And clings to every twig, gives us no pain;
But down we ſweep, as ſtoops the falcon bold
To pounce his prey. Then up the opponent hill,
By the ſwift motion ſlung, we mount aloft:
So ſhips in winter ſeas now ſliding ſink

Adown

Cook sculp.

In VIEW.

Published Feb. 1st 1795, by I. Wheble, Warwick Square, London.

Adown the ſteepy wave, then toſs'd on high
Ride on the billows, and defy the ſtorm." SOM.

It was then the fox I ſaw, as we came down the hill;—thoſe crows directed me which way to look, and the ſheep ran from him as he paſt along. The hounds are now on the very ſpot, yet the ſheep ſtop them not, for they daſh beyond them. Now ſee with what eagerneſs they croſs the plain!—*Galloper* no longer keeps his place, *Bruſher* takes it—ſee how he flings for the ſcent, and how impetuouſly he runs!—How eagerly he took the lead, and how he ſtrives to keep it—yet *Victor* comes up apace.—He reaches him!—See what an excellent race it is between them!——It is doubtful which will reach the cover firſt.—How equally they run!—how eagerly they ſtrain! now Victor—Victor!——Ah! Bruſher, you are beaten; Victor firſt tops the hedge.—See there! ſee how they all take it in their ſtrokes! the hedge cracks with their weight, ſo many jump at once.——

Now haſtes the whipper-in to the other ſide of the cover; he is right unleſs he head the fox.

" Heav'ns! what melodious ſtrains! how beat our hearts
Big with tumultuous joy! the loaded gales
Breathe harmony; and as the tempeſt drives
From wood to wood, thro' ev'ry dark receſs
The foreſt thunders, and the mountains ſhake." SOM.

Liſten!—the hounds have turned. They are now in two parts: the fox has been headed back, and we have changed at laſt.

Now, my lad, mind the huntſman's halloo, and ſtop to thoſe hounds which he encourages. He is right!—that, doubtleſs, is the hunted fox;—Now they are off again.

"What lengths we paſs! where will the wand'ring chace
Lead us bewilder'd! ſmooth as ſwallows ſkim
The new-ſhorn mead, and far more ſwift we fly.
See my brave pack; how to the head they preſs,
Juſtling in cloſe array, then more diffuſe
Obliquely wheel, while from their op'ning mouths
The vollied thunder breaks.
————————Look back and view
The ſtrange confuſion of the vale below,
Where ſore vexation reigns;————————
————————Old age laments
His vigour ſpent; the tall, plump, brawny youth
Curſes his cumbrous bulk? and envies now
The ſhort pygmean race, he whilom kenn'd
With proud inſulting leer. A choſen few
Alone the ſport enjoy, nor droop beneath
Their pleaſing toils." SOM.

Ha! a check.—Now for a moment's patience!—We preſs too cloſe upon the hounds!—Huntſman, ſtand ſtill! as they want you not.—How admirably they ſpread! how wide they caſt! Is there a ſingle hound that does not try? if there be, ne'er ſhall he hunt again. There, *Trueman* is

Cook Sculp.

AT FAULT.

is on the ſcent—he feathers, yet ſtill is doubtful —'tis right! how readily they join him! See thoſe wide-caſting hounds, how they fly forward to recover the ground they have loſt!—Mind *Lightning*, how ſhe daſhes; and *Mungo*, how he works! Old *Frantic*, too, now puſhes forward; ſhe knows, as well as we, the fox is ſinking.

" ————Ha! yet he flies, nor yields
To black deſpair. But one looſe more, and all
His wiles are vain. Hark! thro' yon village now
The rattling clamour rings. The barns, the cots,
And leafleſs elms return the joyous ſounds.
Thro' ev'ry homeſtall, and thro' ev'ry yard,
His midnight walks, panting, forlorn, he flies.

SOM.

Huntſman! at fault at laſt? How far did you bring the ſcent?—Have the hounds made their own caſt?—Now make your's. You ſee that ſheep-dog has courſed the fox;—get forward with your hounds, and make a wide caſt.

Hark! that halloo is indeed a lucky one.—If we can hold him on, we may yet recover him; for a fox, ſo much diſtreſſed, muſt ſtop at laſt. We ſhall now ſee if they will hunt as well as run; for there is but little ſcent, and the impending cloud ſtill makes that little, leſs. How they enjoy the ſcent!—ſee how buſy they all are, and how each in his turn prevails!

Huntſman! be quiet! Whilſt the ſcent was good, you preſs'd on your hounds; it was well done: when they came to a check, you ſtood ſtill, and interrupted them not: they were afterwards at fault; you made your caſt with judgment, and loſt no time. You now muſt let them hunt;—with ſuch a cold ſcent as this you can do no good; they muſt do it all themſelves;—lift them now, and not a hound will ſtoop again.—Ha! a high road, at ſuch a time as this, when the tendereſt-noſed hound can hardly own the ſcent!—Another fault! That man at work, then, has headed back the fox. Huntſman! caſt not your hounds now, you ſee they have over-run the ſcent; have a little patience, and let them, for once, try back.

We now muſt give them time:—ſee where they bend towards yonder furze brake—I wiſh he may have ſtopped there!—Mind that old hound, how he daſhes o'er the furze; I think he winds him.—Now for a freſh *entapis!* Hark! they halloo!—Aye, there he goes.

It is nearly over with him; had the hounds caught view, he muſt have died.—He will hardly reach the cover; ſee how they gain upon him at every ſtroke!—It is an admirable race! yet the cover ſaves him.

Now

Cook Sculp

THE DEATH.

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Now be quiet, and he cannot eſcape us; we have the wind of the hounds, and cannot be better placed:—how ſhort he runs!—he is now in the very ſtrongeſt part of the cover.—What a craſh! every hound is in, and every hound is running for him. That was a quick turn!—Again another!—he's put to his laſt ſhifts.—Now *Miſchief* is at his heels, and death is not far off.—Ha! they all ſtop at once;—all ſilent, and yet no earth is open. Liſten!—now they are at him again!—Did you hear that hound catch him? they over-ran the ſcent, and the fox had laid down behind them. Now, Reynard, look to yourſelf!—How quick they all give their tongues!—Little *Dreadnought*, how he works him! the terriers too, they are now ſqueaking at him.—How cloſe *Vengeance* purſues! how terribly ſhe preſſes!—it is juſt up with him!—Gods! what a craſh they make; the whole wood reſounds!—That turn was very ſhort!—There!—now!—aye, now they have him! Who-hoop!

LET-

LETTER XIV.

FOX-HUNTING, however lively and animating it may be in the field, is but a dull, dry ſubject to write upon; and I can now aſſure you, from experience, that it is much leſs difficult to follow a fox-chace than to deſcribe one. You will eaſily imagine, that to give enough of variety to a ſingle action, to make it intereſting, and to deſcribe in a few minutes, the events of, perhaps, as many hours; though it pretend to no merit, has at leaſt ſome difficulty and trouble; and you will as eaſily conclude that I am glad they are over.

You deſire me to explain that part of my laſt letter, which ſays, *if we can hold him on, we may now recover him.*—It means, if we have ſcent to follow on the line of him, it is probable he will ſtop, and we may hunt up to him again. You alſo object to my ſaying *catch* a fox; you call it a bad expreſſion, and ſay, that it is not *ſportly*; I believe I have not often uſed it; and when I have, it has been to diſtinguiſh betwixt the hunting a fox down, as you do a hare, and the killing of him with hard running.—You tell me, I ſhould always

always *kill* a fox. I might anſwer—I muſt *catch* him firſt.

You ſay, that I have not enlivened my chace with many halloos: it is true, I have not; and what is worſe, I fear I am never likely to meet your approbation in that particular; for ſhould we hunt together, then, I make no doubt, you will think that I halloo too much; a fault which every one is guilty of who really loves this animating ſport, and is eager in the purſuit of it. Believe me, I never could halloo in my life, unleſs after hounds; and the writing a halloo appears to me almoſt as difficult as to *pen a whiſper*.

Your friend A——, you ſay, is very ſevere on us fox-hunters;—no one is more welcome. However, even he might have known, that the profeſſion of fox-hunting is much altered ſince the time of Sir John Vanburgh; and the intemperance, clowniſhneſs, and ignorance of the old fox-hunter, are quite worn out: a much truer definition of one might now be made than that which he has left. Fox-hunting is now become the amuſement of *gentlemen*; nor need any gentleman be aſhamed of it.

I ſhall now begin to anſwer your various queſtions as they preſent themſelves. Though I was glad of this expedient, to methodiſe, in ſome degree,

gree, the variety we have to treat of, yet I was well aware of the impoſſibility of ſufficiently explaining myſelf in the midſt of a fox-chace, whoſe rapidity, you know very well, brooks no delay; now is the time, therefore, to make good that deficiency: what afterwards remains on the ſubject of hunting will ſerve as a ſupplement to the reſt; in which I ſhall ſtill have it in my power to introduce whatever may be now forgotten, or, give a further explanation of ſuch parts as may ſeem to you to require it: for ſince my principal view in writing theſe letters is to make the inſtruction they contain of ſome uſe to you, if you ſhould want it; if not, to others; the being as clear and explicit as I can, will be far beyond all other conſiderations. Repetitions, we know, are ſhocking things; yet, in writing ſo many letters on the ſame ſubject, I fear it will be difficult to avoid them.

Firſt, then, as to the early hour recommended in my former letter:—I agree with you, it requires explanation; but you will pleaſe to conſider, that you deſired me to fix the hour moſt favourable to the ſport, and without doubt it is *an early one.** You ſay, that I do not go out ſo early myſelf:—it is true, I do not; do phyſicians

* An early hour is only neceſſary, where you are not likely to find without a drag.

always

always follow their own preſcriptions? Is it not ſufficient that their preſcriptions be good? However, if my hounds ſhould be out of blood, I go out early, for then it becomes neceſſary to give them every advantage. At an early hour, you are ſeldom long before you find. The morning is the part of the day which generally affords the beſt ſcent; and the animal himſelf, which, in ſuch a caſe, you are more than ever deſirous of killing, is then leaſt able to run away from you. The want of reſt, and perhaps a full belly, give hounds a great advantage over him. I expect, my friend, that you will reply to this, "that a "fox-hunter, then, is not a *fair ſportſman.*"—He certainly is not; and what is more, would be very ſorry to be miſtaken for one. He is otherwiſe from principle. In his opinion, a fair ſportſman, and a fooliſh ſportſman, are ſynonimous; he, therefore, takes every advantage of the fox he can. You will think, perhaps, that he may ſometimes ſpoil his own ſport by this? It is true, he ſometimes does, but then he *makes* his hounds; the whole art of fox-hunting being to keep the hounds well in blood. Sport is but a ſecondary conſideration with a fox-hunter; the firſt is, *the killing of the fox:* hence ariſes the eagerneſs of purſuit, chief pleaſure of the chace:—I confeſs, I eſteem blood ſo neceſſary to a pack of fox-hounds, that with regard to myſelf, I always return home better pleaſed with but an indifferent

chace, with death at the end of it, than with the beſt chace poſſible, if it end with the loſs of the fox. Good chaces, generally ſpeaking, are long chaces; and, if not attended with ſucceſs, never fail to do more harm to hounds than good. Our pleaſures, I believe, for the moſt part, are greater during the expectation than the enjoyment: in this caſe, reality itſelf warrants the idea, and your preſent ſucceſs is almoſt a ſure fore-runner of future ſport.

I remember to have heard an odd anecdote of the late Duke of R——, who was very popular in his neighbourhood.—A butcher, at Lyndhurſt, a lover of the ſport, as often as he heard the hounds return from hunting came out to meet them, and never failed to aſk the Duke what ſport he had? "Very good, I thank you, honeſt friend."—"Has your grace killed a fox?"—"*No:* "—We have had a good run, but we have not "killed."—"*Pſhaw!*" cried the butcher, looking archly, and pointing at him with his finger.—This was ſo conſtantly repeated, that the Duke, when he had not killed a fox, was uſed to ſay, *he was afraid to meet the butcher.*

You aſk, why the huntſman is to draw ſo quietly; and, why up the wind? With regard to his drawing quietly, that may depend on the kind of cover before him; and alſo on the ſeaſon

of the year. If your covers be ſmall, or ſuch from which a fox cannot break unſeen, then noiſe can do no hurt; if you draw at a late hour, and when there is no drag, then the more the cover is diſturbed the better; the more likely you are to find. Late in the ſeaſon foxes are wild, particularly in covers that are often hunted. If you do not draw quietly, he will ſometimes get too much the ſtart of you: when you have any ſuſpicion of this, ſend on a whipper-in to the oppoſite ſide of the cover before you throw in your hounds. With regard to the drawing up the wind, *that* is much more material. You never fail to give the wind to a pointer and ſetter; why not to a hound?—Beſides, the fox, if you draw up the wind, does not hear you coming; and your hounds, by this means, are never out of your hearing; beſides, ſhould he turn down the wind, as moſt probably he will, it lets them all in. Suppoſe yourſelf acting directly contrary to this, and then ſee what is likely to be the conſequence.

You think I am too ſevere on my brother ſportſmen: if more ſo than they deſerve, I am ſorry for it. I know many gentlemen who are excellent ſportſmen, yet, I am ſorry to ſay, the greater number of thoſe who ride after hounds are not; and it is thoſe only whom I allude to. Few gentlemen will take any pains, few of them will ſtop a hound, though he ſhould run riot

cloſe

cloſe beſide them, or will ſtand quiet a moment, though it be to halloo a fox: it is true, they will not fail to halloo if he ſhould come in their way, and they will do the ſame to as many foxes as they ſee. Some will encourage hounds which they do not know; it is a great fault: were every gentleman who follows hounds to fancy himſelf a huntſman, what noiſe, what confuſion would enſue! I conſider many of them as gentlemen riding out, and I am never ſo well pleaſed as when I ſee them ride home again. You may perhaps have thought, that I wiſhed them all to be huntſmen—moſt certainly not; but the more aſſiſtants a huntſman has, the better, in all probability, his hounds will be. Good ſenſe, and a little obſervation, will ſoon prevent ſuch people from doing amiſs; and I hold it as an almoſt invariable rule in hunting, that thoſe who do not know how to do good are always liable to do harm:* there is ſcarce an inſtant, during a whole chace, when a ſportſman ought not to be in one particular place:

* This is a better reaſon, perhaps, why gentlemen ought to underſtand this diverſion, than for the good they may do in it; ſince a pack of hounds that are well manned will ſeldom need any other aſſiſtance. A gentleman, perceiving his hounds to be much confuſed by the frequent halloos of a ſtranger, rode up to him, and thanked him with great civility for the trouble he was taking: but at the ſame time acquainted him, that the two men he ſaw in green coats were paid ſo much by the year, *on purpoſe to halloo*, it would be needleſs for him, therefore, to give himſelf any *further* trouble.

and,

and, I will venture to ſay, that if he be not *there*, he might as well be in his bed.

I muſt give you an extraordinary inſtance of a gentleman's *knowledge* of hunting.—He had hired a houſe in a fine hunting country, with a good kennel belonging to it, in the neighbourhood of two packs of hounds, of which mine was one; and that he might not offend the owner of either, intended, as he ſaid, to hunt with both. He offered me the uſe of his kennel, which, for ſome reaſons, I choſe to decline; it was afterwards offered to the other gentleman, who accepted it. The firſt day that the hounds hunted this country he did not appear. The ſecond day, the hounds were no ſooner at the cover ſide than my friend ſaw an odd figure, ſtrangely accoutred, riding up, with a *ſpaniel* following him. "Sir," ſaid he, "it gave me great concern not to be able to "attend you when you was here before; I hope "you was not offended at it; for, to ſhew you "how well I am inclined to aſſiſt your hunt; "you ſee, *I have brought my little dog*."

I will now give you an inſtance of another gentleman's *love* of hunting. We were returning from hunting over a very fine country, and upon its being remarked that we had a pleaſant ride, he replied, "the beſt part of the *ſport*, in my opi-"nion, is the riding home to dinner afterwards."

He is, without doubt, of the ſame opinion with a fat old gentleman I one day overtook upon the road, who, after having aſked me, "how many "foxes we uſually killed in one day—why I did "not hunt hare rather than fox, as ſhe was bet-"ter to eat?"—he concluded, ſaying, "there is "but one part of hunting I likes—*it makes one* "*very hungry*."

There are two things, which I particularly recommend to you; the one is, to make your hounds ſteady, the other, to make them all draw. Many huntſmen are fond of having them at their horſes heels; but, believe me, they never can get ſo well, or ſo ſoon together, as when they ſpread the cover: beſides, I have often known, when there have been only a few finders, that they have found their fox, gone down the wind, and been heard of no more that day.

Never take out an unſteady old hound; young ones properly awed from riot, and that will ſtop at a rate, may be put into the pack, a few at a time; but an old hound that is vicious ſhould not eſcape hanging; let him be ever ſo good in other reſpects I will not excuſe him; for a pack muſt be wretched indeed that can ſtand in need of ſuch aſſiſtance.

There

There is infinite pleaſure in hearing a fox well found. When you get up to his kennel, with a good drag, the chorus increaſing as you go, it inſpires a joy more eaſy to be felt than deſcribed. With regard to my own ſenſations, I would rather hear one fox found in this lively manner, than ride the beſt hare-chace that ever was run.

Much depends on the firſt finding of your fox. *Dimidium facti, qui bene cœpit, habet*, which we learned at Weſtminſter, is verified here; for I look upon a fox well found to be half killed. I think people generally are in too great a hurry on this occaſion. There is an enthuſiaſm attending this diverſion, which, in this inſtance in particular, ought always to be reſtrained.* The hounds are always mad enough when they find their fox; if the men be alſo mad, they make mad work of it indeed. A gentleman of my acquaintance, who hunts his own hounds, and is not leſs eager than the reſt of us, yet very well knows the bad conſequences of being ſo, to prevent this fault in himſelf, always begins by taking a pinch of ſnuff, he then ſings part of an old ſong, "*Some ſay that* "*care killed the cat*," &c. By this time his hounds get together, and ſettle to the ſcent. He then halloos, and rides as if the d—l drove.

* There are but few inſtances where ſportſmen are not too noiſy, and too fond of encouraging their hounds, which ſeldom do their buſineſs ſo well as when little is ſaid to them.

If the fox break cover, you will ſometimes ſee a young ſportſman ride after him. He never fails to aſk ſuch a one, "*Do you think you can* "*catch him, Sir?*"—"*No.*"—"Why then be ſo "good as to let my hounds try—*if they can.*"

[The ſubject which has been choſen as a frontiſpiece to the preſent edition of this work, being in ſome degree analogous to moſt parts of Letter xiv. it may not be improper in this place to notice the circumſtance which occaſioned it.

A pack of hounds belonging to his GRACE of BEAUFORT, after a purſuit of many miles, ſcented Reynard to a cottage at CASTLE COOMBE, where he had taken refuge in a cradle; little time, however, was given him in this retreat, as they almoſt inſtantly entered the hovel, ſeized upon their devoted victim, and dragged him from his lurking place.]

LET-

LETTER XV.

I LEFT off juſt as I had found the fox: I now, therefore, with your leave, will ſuppoſe, that the hounds are running him. You deſire I would be more particular with regard to the men; it was always my intention. To begin, then, the huntſman ought certainly to ſet off with his foremoſt hounds, and I ſhould wiſh him to keep as cloſe to them afterwards as he conveniently can; nor can any harm ariſe from it, unleſs he ſhould not have common ſenſe. No hounds then can ſlip down the wind, and get out of his hearing; he will alſo ſee how far they carry the ſcent; a neceſſary requiſite; for without it, he never can make a caſt with any certainty.

You will find it not leſs neceſſary for your huntſman to be active in preſſing his hounds forward,* while the ſcent is good, than to be pru-

* Preſſing hounds on, is, perhaps, a dangerous expreſſion; as more harm may be done by preſſing them beyond the ſcent, when it is good, than when it is bad: however, it means no more than to get forward the tail-hounds, and to encourage the others to puſh on as faſt as they can, while the ſcent ſerves them.

dent in not hurrying them beyond it, when it is bad. Your's, you ſay, is a good horſeman; it is of the utmoſt conſequence to your ſport; nor is it poſſible for a huntſman to be of much uſe, who is not; for the firſt thing, and the very *ſine qua non* of a fox-hunter is to ride up to his headmoſt hounds. It is his buſineſs to be ready, at all times, to lend them that aſſiſtance they ſo frequently need, and which, when they are firſt at a fault, is then moſt critical. A fox-hound, at that time, will exert himſelf moſt; he afterwards cools, and becomes more indifferent about his game. Thoſe huntſmen who do not get forward enough to take advantage of this eagerneſs and impetuoſity, and direct it properly, ſeldom know enough of hunting to be of much uſe to them afterwards.

You will, perhaps, find it more difficult to keep your whipper-in back, than to get your huntſman forward; at leaſt, I always have found it ſo.* It is, however, neceſſary; nor will a good whipper-in leave a cover whilſt a ſingle hound remains in it: for this reaſon, there ſhould

* Though a huntſman cannot be too fond of hunting, a whipper-in eaſily may. His buſineſs will ſeldom allow him to be forward enough with the hounds to ſee much of the ſport: his only thought, therefore, ſhould be to keep the hounds together, and to contribute, as much as he can, to the killing of the fox.

be

be two; one of whom ſhould always be forward with the huntſman. You cannot conceive the many ills that may happen to hounds that are left behind. I do not know that I can enumerate one half of them; but of this you may be certain, that the keeping them together is the ſureſt means to keep them ſteady. When left to themſelves, they ſeldom refuſe any blood they can get; they acquire many bad habits; they become conceited, a terrible fault in any animal; and they learn to tye upon the ſcent, an unpardonable fault in a fox-hound: beſides this, they frequently get a trick of hunting by themſelves, and they ſeldom are worth much afterwards. The lying out in the cold, perhaps the whole night, can do no good to their conſtitutions, nor will the being worried by ſheep-dogs or maſtiffs be of ſervice to their bodies: all this, however, and much more, they are liable to. I believe I mentioned, in my fourth letter, that the ſtraw-houſe door ſhould be left open when any hounds are miſſing.

Every country is ſoon known, and nine foxes out of ten, with the wind in the ſame quarter, will follow the ſame track. It is eaſy, therefore, for the whipper-in to cut ſhort, and catch the hounds again; at leaſt it is ſo in the country where I hunt. With a high ſcent you cannot puſh on hounds too much. Screams keep the

fox forward, at the ſame time that they keep the hounds together, or let in the tail-hounds;* they alſo enliven the ſport, and if diſcreetly uſed, are always of ſervice; but, in cover, they ſhould be given with the greateſt caution.

Moſt fox-hunters wiſh to ſee their hounds run in a good ſtyle; I confeſs, I am myſelf one of thoſe. I hate to ſee a ſtring of them, nor can I bear to ſee them creep, where they can leap. It is the daſh of the fox-hound which diſtinguiſhes *him* as truly, as the motto of William of Wickham diſtinguiſhes *us*. A pack of harriers, if they have time, may kill a fox; but I defy them to kill him in the ſtyle in which a fox ought to be killed; they muſt hunt him down. If you intend to tire him out, you muſt expect to be tired alſo yourſelf: I never wiſh a chace to be leſs than one hour, or to exceed two: it is ſufficiently long, if properly followed; it will ſeldom be longer, unleſs there be a fault ſomewhere—either in the day, in the huntſman, or in the hounds. What Lord Chatham once ſaid

* Halloos ſeldom do any hurt, when you are running up the wind; for then, none but the tail-hounds can hear you: when you are running down the wind, you ſhould halloo no more than may be neceſſary to bring the tail-hounds forward, for a hound that knows his buſineſs ſeldom wants encouragement when he is upon a ſcent.

of

of a battle, is particularly applicable to a fox-chace: it ſhould be *ſhort, ſharp,* and *deciſive.*

There is, I believe, but little difference in the ſpeed of hounds of the ſame ſize; the great difference is in the head they carry; and in order that they may run well together, you ſhould not keep too many old hounds: after five or ſix ſeaſons, they generally do more harm than good. If they tie upon the ſcent, and come hunting after, hang them up immediately, let their age be what it may; there is no getting ſuch conceited devils on; they will never come to a halloo, which every hound that is off the ſcent, or behind the reſt, ſhould not fail to do; and they are always more likely to draw you back than help you forward.*

You think me too ſevere on ſkirters. I muſt confeſs, that I have but one objection to them,

* From this paſſage, the critic endeavours to prove the ſportſman's ingratitude; and yet common ſenſe, I believe, induces moſt men to rid themſelves of that which if kept would be prejudicial to them. The critic ſeems to allude to a well-known fable of Æſop, but is not very happy in the application. He has alſo miſ-quoted the paſſage—the author does not ſay *tire*, but *tye* upon the ſcent. Good hounds, when they become aged, are liable to the firſt; bad ones only are guilty of the laſt. In either caſe, death is not meant as a puniſhment, nor is it conſidered as a misfortune.—Vide Monthly Review.

and

and it is *this:* I have conſtantly ſeen them do more *harm* than *good.*

Changing from the hunted fox to a freſh one, is as bad an accident as can happen to a pack of fox-hounds, and requires all the obſervation and all the ingenuity that man is capable of to guard againſt it. Could a fox-hound diſtinguiſh a hunted fox, as the deer-hound does the deer that is blown, fox-hunting would then be perfect. There are certain rules that ought to be obſerved by huntſmen. A huntſman ſhould always liſten to his hounds, whilſt they are running in cover; he ſhould be particularly attentive to the head-moſt hounds, and he ſhould be conſtantly on his guard againſt a ſkirter, for if there be two ſcents, he muſt be wrong. Generally ſpeaking, the beſt ſcent is leaſt likely to be that of the hunted fox; and as a fox ſeldom ſuffers hounds to run up to him as long as he is able to prevent it, ſo, nine times out of ten, when foxes are hallooed early in the day, they are all freſh foxes. The hounds moſt likely to be right are the hard-running line-hunting hounds, or ſuch as the huntſman knows had the lead, before there aroſe any doubt of changing. With regard to the fox, if he break over an open country, it is no ſign that he is hard run; for they ſeldom at any time will do that, unleſs they be a great way before the hounds. Alſo, if he run up the wind—they ſel-

dom ever do that when they have been long hunted, and grow weak; and when they run their foil, *that* alſo may direct him. All this, as you will perceive, requires a good ear and nice obſervation; and indeed, in that conſiſts the chief excellence of a huntſman.

When the hounds divide, and are in two parts, the whipper-in, in ſtopping, muſt attend to the huntſman, and wait for his halloo, before he attempts to ſtop either: for want of proper management in this particular, I have known the hounds ſtopped at both places, and both foxes loſt by it. If they have many ſcents, and it is quite uncertain which is the hunted fox, let him ſtop thoſe that are fartheſt down the wind, as they can hear the others, and will reach them ſooneſt: in ſuch a caſe, there will be little uſe in ſtopping thoſe that are up the wind.

When hounds are at a check, let every one be ſilent, and ſtand ſtill: but as I have already ſaid ſo much on that head in my eleventh letter on hare-hunting, I beg leave to refer you to it. Whippers-in are frequently at this time coming on with the tail-hounds. They ſhould never halloo to them, when the hounds are at fault; the leaſt thing does hurt at ſuch a time, but a halloo more than any other. The huntſman, at a check, had better let his hounds alone, or con-

tent

tent himſelf with holding them forward, without taking them off their noſes. Hounds that are not uſed to be caſt, *à tout bout de champ* will of themſelves acquire a better caſt than it is in the power of any huntſman to give them; will ſpread more, and try better for the ſcent; and, if in health and ſpirits, will want no encouragement.

Should they be at fault, after having made their own caſt, (which the huntſman ſhould always firſt encourage them to do) it is then his buſineſs to aſſiſt them further; but, except in ſome particular inſtances, I never approve of their being caſt as long as they are inclined to hunt. The firſt caſt I bid my huntſman make is generally a regular one; not chooſing to rely entirely on his judgment: if that ſhould not ſucceed, he is then at liberty to follow his own opinion, and proceed as obſervation and genius may direct. When ſuch a caſt is made, I like to ſee ſome mark of good ſenſe and meaning in it; whether down the wind, or towards ſome likely cover, or ſtrong earth: however, as it is at beſt uncertain, and as the huntſman and the fox may be of different opinions, I always wiſh to ſee a regular caſt, before I ſee a knowing one; which, as a laſt reſource, ſhould not be called forth, till it be wanted: the letting hounds alone is but a negative goodneſs in a huntſman; whereas, it is true,

true, this laſt ſhows real genius; and to be perfect, it muſt be born with him. There is a fault, however, which a knowing huntſman is too apt to commit: he will find a freſh fox, and then claim the merit of having recovered the hunted one. It always is dangerous to throw hounds into a cover to retrieve a loſt ſcent; and, unleſs they hit him in, is not to be depended on. Driven to the laſt extremity, ſhould a knowing caſt not ſucceed, your huntſman is in no wiſe blameable: mine, I remember, loſt me a good chace, by perſevering too long in a favourite caſt; but he gave me ſo many good reaſons why the fox *ought* to have gone that way, that I returned perfectly well ſatisfied, telling him, at the ſame time, that, *if the fox was a fool, he could not help it.*

Gentlemen, when hounds are at fault, are too apt themſelves to prolong it. They ſhould always ſtop their horſes ſome diſtance behind the hounds, and, if it be poſſible to remain ſilent, this is the time to be ſo: they ſhould be careful not to ride before the hounds, or over the ſcent; nor ſhould they ever meet a hound in the face, unleſs with a deſign to ſtop him. Should you at any time be before the hounds, turn your horſe's head the way they are going, get out of their track, and let them paſs by you.

In

In dry weather, foxes, particularly in heathy countries, will run the roads. If gentlemen, at ſuch times, will ride cloſe upon the hounds, they may drive them miles, without any ſcent.* High-mettled fox-hounds are ſeldom inclined to ſtop whilſt horſes are cloſe at their heels.

An acquaintance of mine, a good ſportſman, but a very warm one, when he ſees the company preſſing too cloſe upon his hounds, begins with crying out, as loud as he can, *hold hard.* If any one ſhould perſiſt after that, he begins moderately at firſt, and ſays, *I beg, Sir, you will ſtop your horſe:—Pray, Sir, ſtop:—God bleſs you, Sir, ſtop;—God d—n your blood, Sir, ſtop your horſe.*

I am now, as you may perceive, in a very violent paſſion; ſo I will e'en ſtop the continuation of this ſubject till I be cool again.

* No one ſhould ever ride in a direction which, if perſiſted in, would carry him amongſt the hounds, unleſs he be at a great diſtance behind them.

LET-

LETTER XVI.

I ENDED my laſt letter, I think, in a violent paſſion. The hounds, I believe, were at fault alſo. I ſhall now continue the further explanation of my thirteenth letter from that time.

The firſt moment that hounds are at fault is a critical one for the ſport: people then ſhould be very attentive. Thoſe who look forward perhaps may ſee the fox, or the running of ſheep, or the purſuit of crows, may give them ſome tidings of him. Thoſe who liſten may ſometimes take a hint which way he is gone, from the chattering of a magpie; or, perhaps, be at a certainty, from a diſtant halloo: nothing that can give any intelligence, at ſuch a time, is to be neglected. Gentlemen are too apt to ride all together: were they to ſpread more, they might ſometimes be of ſervice; particularly thoſe who, from a knowledge of the ſport, keep down the wind: it would then be difficult for either hounds, or fox, to eſcape their obſervation.

You ſhould, however, be cautious how you go to a halloo. The halloo itſelf muſt, in a great meaſure, direct you; and though it afford no

no certain rule, yet you may frequently guefs by it whether it may be depended on or not. At the fowing time, when boys are bird-keeping, if you be not very much on your guard, their halloo will fometimes deceive you. It is beft, when you are in doubt, to fend on a whipper-in to know; the worft then that can befall you is the lofs of a little time; whereas, if you gallop away with the hounds to the halloo, and are obliged to return, it is a chance if they try for the fcent afterwards: on the other hand, if, certain of the halloo, you intend going to it; then the fooner you get to it the better. I have been more angry with my huntfman, for being flow at a time like this, than for any other fault whatfoever. Huntfmen who are flow at getting to a halloo, are void of common fenfe.

They frequently commit another fault by being in too great a hurry when they get there. It is hardly credible how much our eagernefs is apt, at fuch a time, to miflead our judgment: for inftance, when we get to the halloo, the firft queftions are natural enough. Did you fee the fox? Which way did he go? The man points with his finger, perhaps, and then away you all ride as faft as you can; and in fuch a hurry, that not one will ftay to hear the anfwer to the queftion which all were fo ready to afk: the general confequence of which is, you miftake the place, and

are

are obliged to return to the man for better information. Depend upon it, the leſs you hurry on this occaſion the more time you ſave; and whereever the fox was ſeen for a certainty, whether near or diſtant, that will not only be the ſureſt, but alſo the beſt place to take the ſcent; and, beſides the certainty of going right, you probably will get on faſter than you would by any other means.

That halloos are not always to be depended on will be ſufficiently evinced by the following inſtances:

My hounds being at a long fault, a fellow hallooed to them from the top of a rick, at ſome diſtance off. The huntſman, as you may believe, ſtuck ſpurs to his horſe, hallooed till he was almoſt hoarſe, and got to the man as quickly as he could: the man ſtill kept hallooing, and as the hounds got near him, "*Here,*" ſaid he—"*here—here, the fox is gone.*"—"Is he far before "us?" cried the huntſman. "How long ago "was it that you ſaw him?"—"No, maſter, I "have not *ſeen him,* but I *ſmelt him* here this "morning, when I came to ſerve my ſheep."

Another inſtance was this: we were trying with ſome deer-hounds for an out-lying ſtag, when we ſaw a fellow running towards us in his

ſhirt: we immediately concluded that we ſhould hear ſome news of the ſtag, and ſet out joyfully to meet him. Our firſt queſtion was, if he had ſeen the ſtag? "No, Sir, I have not ſeen him, "*but my wife dreamt as how ſhe ſaw him t'other* "*night.*"

Once a man hallooed us back a mile, only to tell us *that we were right before*, and we loſt the fox by it.

A gentleman, ſeeing his hounds at fault, rode up to a man at plough, and with great eagerneſs aſked him, if he had ſeen the fox? "The fox, "Sir!"—"Yes, d—n you, the fox! Did you "never ſee a fox?"—"Pray, Sir, if I may be "ſo bould, what ſort of a looking creature may "he be? has he *ſhort ears* and a *long tail?*"—"*Yes.*"—"Why then, I can aſſure you, Sir, I "have ſeen *no ſuch thing.*"

We are agreed, that hounds ought not to be caſt as long as they are able to hunt; and though the idea, that a hunted fox never ſtops, is a very neceſſary one to a fox-hunter, that he may be active, and may loſe no time; yet tired foxes will ſtop, if you can hold them on; and I have known them ſtop, even in wheel-ruts, on the open down, and leap up in the midſt of the hounds. A tired fox ought not to be given up,

for

for he is killed ſometimes very unexpectedly. If hounds have ever preſſed him, he is worth your trouble; perſeverance may recover him, and, if recovered, he moſt probably will be killed; nor ſhould you deſpair, whilſt any ſcent remains. The buſineſs of a huntſman is only difficult when the ſcent dies quite away; and it is then he may ſhew *his* judgment, when the hounds are no longer able to ſhew *theirs*. The recovering a loſt ſcent, and getting nearer to the fox by a long caſt, requires genius, and is, therefore, what few huntſmen are equal to. When hounds are no longer capable of feeling the ſcent, it all reſts with the huntſman; either the game is entirely given up, or is only to be recovered by him, and is the effect of real genius, ſpirit, and obſervation.

When hounds are at cold hunting, with a bad ſcent, it may then be a proper time to ſend a whipper-in forward; if he can ſee the fox, a little mobbing, at ſuch a time as this, may reaſonably be allowed.

When hounds are put to a check on a high road, by the fox being headed back, if in that particular inſtance you ſuffer them to try back, it gives them the beſt chance of hitting off the ſcent again, as they may try on both ſides at once.

When hounds are running in cover, you cannot be too quiet. If the fox be running ſhort, and the hounds are catching him, not a word ſhould then be ſaid: it is a difficult time for hounds to hunt him, as he is continually turning, and will ſometimes lie down, and let them paſs him.

I have remarked, that the greateſt danger of loſing a fox is at the firſt finding of him, and when he is ſinking; at both of which times he frequently will run ſhort, and the eagerneſs of the hounds is too apt to carry them beyond the ſcent. When a fox is firſt found, I wiſh every one would keep behind the hounds, till they are well ſettled to the ſcent; and when the hounds are catching him, I wiſh them to be as ſilent as they can.

When he is caught, I like to ſee hounds eat him eagerly. In ſome countries, I am told, they have a method of *trecing* him;* it is of uſe to make the hounds eager; it lets them all in; they recover their wind, and eat him more readily. I ſhould adviſe you, at the ſame time, not to keep him too long, as I do not imagine the hounds

* The intention of it is to make the hounds more eager, and to let in the tail-hounds. The fox is thrown acroſs the branch of a tree, and the hounds are ſuffered to bay at him for ſome minutes, before he is thrown amongſt them.

have

have any appetite to eat him, longer than whilſt they are angry with him.

When two packs of fox-hounds run together, and they kill the fox, the pack that found him is entitled to the head. Should both have found, how is it to be determined then? The huntſman who gets in firſt ſeems, in my opinion, to have the beſt right to it; yet to prevent a diſpute, (which, of courſe, might be thought a wrong-headed one) would he not do well to cut off the head, and preſent it to the other huntſman?

The ſame author, whom I quoted in my tenth letter, and who tells us, how we ſhould *not eat a hare*, is alſo kind enough to tell us when we *ſhould eat a fox*; I wiſh he had alſo added the beſt manner of *dreſſing him:* we are obliged to him, however, for the following information:— "*La chair du Renard eſt moins mauvaiſe que c'elle* "*du loup*; *les chiens et méme les Hommes en mangent* "*en automne, ſurtout lorſqu'il s'eſt nourri et en-* "*graiſſé de raiſins.*"—You would have been better pleaſed, I make no doubt, if the learned gentleman had inſtructed you *how to hunt him*, rather than *when to eat him.*

I ſhall end this letter with an anecdote of a late huntſman of mine, who was a great ſlip-ſlop, and always called ſucceſſively, *ſucceſsfully*. One

day, when he had been out with the young hounds, I ſent for him in, and aſked him what ſport he had had, and how the hounds behaved? "Very great ſport, Sir, and no hounds could "behave any better."—"Did you run him "long?"—"They ran him, and pleaſe your "honour, upwards of three hours *ſucceſsfully*." —"So, then, you *did* kill him?"—"*Oh, no, "Sir, we loſt him at laſt.*"

LET-

LETTER XVII.

FOX-HUNTING, an acquaintance of mine ſays, is only to be followed becauſe you can ride hard, and do leſs harm in that than in any other kind of hunting. There may be ſome truth in the obſervation; but, to ſuch as love the riding part only of hunting, would not a trail ſcent be more ſuitable? Gentlemen who hunt for the ſake of a ride, who are indifferent about the hounds, and know little of the buſineſs, if they do no harm, fulfil as much as we have reaſon to expect from them; whilſt thoſe of a contrary deſcription, do good, and have much greater pleaſure. Such as are acquainted with the hounds, and can at times aſſiſt them, find the ſport more intereſting; and frequently have the ſatisfaction to think, that they themſelves contribute to the ſucceſs of the day. This is a pleaſure you often enjoy; a pleaſure, without any regret attending it. I know not what effect it may have on you; but I know that my ſpirits are always good after good ſport in hunting; nor is the reſt of the day ever diſagreeable to me. What are other ſports compared to this, which is full of enthuſiaſm! fiſhing is, in my opinion, a dull diverſion;---ſhooting, though it admit of a companion, will not allow of many:---both therefore may be

conſidered as ſelfiſh and ſolitary amuſements, compared with hunting; to which, as many as pleaſe are welcome. The one might teach patience to a philoſopher; and the other, though it occaſion great fatigue to the body, ſeldom affords much occupation to the mind. Whereas fox-hunting is a kind of warfare;---its uncertainties, its fatigues, its difficulties, and its dangers, rendering it intereſting above all other diverſions.—— That you may more readily pardon this digreſſion, I return to anſwer your letter now before me.

I am glad to hear that your men have good voices; mine, unluckily, have not. There is a friend of mine, who hunts his own hounds; his voice is the ſtrangeſt, and his halloos the oddeſt I ever heard. He has, however, this advantage:--- no dog can poſſibly miſtake his halloo for another's. Singularity conſtitutes an eſſential part of a huntſman's halloo:---it is for that reaſon alone, I prefer the horn, to which, I obſerve, hounds fly more readily than to the huntſman's voice. Good voices certainly are pleaſing; yet it might be as well, perhaps, if thoſe who have them, were leſs fond of exerting them. When a fox is hallooed, thoſe who underſtand this buſineſs, and get forward, may halloo him again;* yet

* Should a fox be hallooed in cover, while the hounds are at fault; if they be long in coming, by getting forward you may halloo

yet let them be told if the hounds go the contrary way, or do not ſeem to come on upon the line of him, to halloo no more. With regard to its being the hunted fox; the fox which every man halloos, is the hunted fox in his own opinion, though he ſeldom has a better reaſon for it, than becauſe *he* ſaw him.—Such halloos as ſerve to keep the hounds together, and to get on the tail hounds, are always of uſe: halloos of encouragement to leading hounds, if injudiciouſly given, may ſpoil your ſport. I am ſorry to ſay view halloos frequently do more harm than good.—They are pleaſing to ſportſmen, but prejudicial to hounds. If a ſtrong cover be full of foxes, and they be often hallooed, hounds ſeldom take much pains in hunting them; hence ariſes that indifference, which ſometimes is to be perceived in fox-hounds while purſuing their game.

You aſk me, if I would take off my hounds to a halloo?—If they be running with a good ſcent, I moſt certainly would not; if otherwiſe, and I

halloo the fox again; perhaps, before the hounds are laid on; by which means you will get nearer to him. In caſes like this, a good ſportſman may be of great uſe to hounds. There are days when hounds will do their buſineſs beſt if let quite alone; and there are days, when they can do nothing without aſſiſtance.—Let them be aſſiſted at no other time. Of a bad ſcenting day, or when hounds may be over-matched, you cannot aſſiſt them too much.

could depend upon the halloo, in ſome caſes I would: for inſtance, when the fox is a great way before them, or perſiſts in running his foil; for ſuch foxes are difficult to kill, unleſs you endeavour to get nearer to them by ſome means or other.——When you hunt after them, it will frequently happen that the longer you run, the further you will be behind.

If hounds be out of blood, and a fox run his foil, you need not ſcruple to ſtop the tail hounds, and throw them in at head; or, if the cover have any ridings cut in it, and the fox be often ſeen, your huntſman, by keeping ſome hounds at his horſe's heels, at the firſt halloo that he hears, may throw them in cloſe at him.*—This will put him out of his pace, and perhaps, put him off his foil. It will be neceſſary, when you do this, that the whipper-in ſhould ſtop the pack from hunting after, and get forward with them to the huntſman. I have already given it as my opinion, that hounds may be hallooed too much. If they

* Nothing is meant more than this—" that the huntſman ſhould get the tail hounds off the line of the ſcent, (where they do more harm than good,) and encourage them forward; if he ſhould hear a halloo, whilſt theſe hounds are off the ſcent, he ſhould lay them on to it; if he ſhould not, the tail hounds, by this means, may ſtill ſtand a chance of getting to the head hounds by the *ear*, which they never could do, if they continued to run by the *noſe*.

ſhould have been often uſed to a halloo, they will expect it; and may truſt, perhaps, to their ears, and eyes, more than to their noſes. If they be often taken from the ſcent, it will teach them to ſhuffle, and probably will make them ſlack in cover: it ſhould be done, therefore, with great caution; not too often; and always ſhould be well-timed. Famous huntſmen, I think, by making too frequent a uſe of this, ſometimes hurt their hounds. I have heard of a ſportſman, who never ſuffers his hounds to be lifted; he lets them pick along the coldeſt ſcent, through flocks of ſheep: this is a particular ſtyle of fox-hunting, which, perhaps, may ſuit the country in which that gentleman hunts. I confeſs to you, I do not think it would ſucceed in a bad ſcenting country, or indeed, in any country where foxes are wild;—whilſt hounds can get on with the ſcent, it cannot be right to take them off from it; but when they are ſtopped for want of it, it cannot then be wrong to give them every advantage in your power.

It is wrong to ſuffer hounds to hunt after others that are gone on with the ſcent, particularly in cover; for how are they to get up to them with a worſe ſcent; beſides, it makes them tye on the ſcent, teaches them to run dog, and deſtroys that laudable ambition of getting forward, which is the chief excellence of a fox-hound. A good huntſman

huntſman will ſeldom ſuffer his head hounds to run away from him; if it ſhould ſo happen, and they be ſtill within his hearing, he will ſink the wind with the reſt of the pack, and get to them as faſt as he can.—Though I ſuffer not a pack of fox-hounds to hunt after ſuch as may be a long way before the reſt, for reaſons which I have juſt given; yet, when a ſingle hound is gone on with the ſcent, I ſend a whipper-in to ſtop him. Were the hounds to be taken off the ſcent to get to him, and he ſhould no longer have any ſcent when they find him, the fox might be loſt by it. This is a reaſon, why in large covers, and particularly ſuch as have many roads in them, ſkirting hounds ſhould be left at home on windy days.

Skirters, I think, you may find hurtful, both in men and dogs. Such as ſkirt to ſave their horſes, often head the fox. Good ſportſmen never quit hounds, but to be of ſervice to them: with men of this deſcription, ſkirting becomes a neceſſary part of fox-hunting, and is of the greateſt uſe. Skirters! beware of a furze-brake. If you head back the fox, the hounds moſt probably will kill him in the brake. Such as ride after the hounds, at the ſame time that they do no good, are leaſt likely to do harm; let ſuch only as underſtand the buſineſs, and mean to be of ſervice to the hounds, ride wide of them; I cannot

cannot however allow, that the riding cloſe up to hounds is always a ſign of a good ſportſman; if it were, a *monkey*, upon a good horſe, would be the beſt ſportſman in the field.—Here muſt I cenſure, (but with reſpect) that eager ſpirit which frequently interrupts, and ſometimes is fatal to ſport in fox-hunting; for, though I cannot ſubſcribe to the doctrine of my friend ****, "that "a pack of fox-hounds would be better without "a huntſman, than with one; and that if left to "themſelves, they would never loſe a fox;"—yet, allowing them their uſual attendants, had he objected only to the ſportſmen who follow them, I muſt have joined iſſue with him. Whoever has followed hounds, muſt have ſeen them frequently hurried beyond the ſcent; and whoever is converſant in hunting, cannot but know, that the ſteam of many horſes, carried by the wind, and mixed with a cold ſcent, is prejudicial to it.

It ſometimes will happen, that a good horſeman is not ſo well in with hounds, as an indifferent one; becauſe he ſeldom will condeſcend to get off his horſe. I believe, the beſt way to follow hounds acroſs a country, is to keep on the line of them, and to diſmount at once, when you come to a leap which you do not chooſe to take; for in looking about for eaſier places, much time is loſt. In following hounds, it may be uſeful to you to know, that when in cover they run up the

the wind, you cannot in reaſon be too far behind them, as long as you have a perfect hearing of them, and can command them; and on the contrary, when they are running down the wind, you cannot keep too cloſe to them.

You complain that foxes are in too great plenty; believe me, it is a good fault. I ſhould as ſoon have expected to have heard your old acquaintance, Jack R——, complain of having too much money; however, it is not without a remedy; hunt the ſame covers conſtantly, and you will ſoon diſperſe them. If your pack be ſtrong enough, divide it; hunt every day, and you will catch many tired foxes. I remember to have killed a brace in one morning, in the ſtrongeſt ſeaſon; the firſt in ten minutes, the ſecond in half an hour.—If your own pack be not ſtrong enough to hunt more than every other day, get a pack of harriers to hunt hare in the cover the intermediate day. Foxes thus diſturbed, will ſhift their quarters; they know their enemies, and ſmell in the night, where they have been in the day, and will not ſtay where they are likely to be diſturbed by them. Follow them for one week in this manner, and I do not think you will have any reaſon, afterwards, to complain that they are in too great plenty.

When

When covers are much diſturbed, foxes will ſometimes break as ſoon as they hear a hound. Where the country round is very open, the fox leaſt likely to break is that which you are hunting; *he* will be very unwilling to quit the cover, if it be a large one, unleſs he can get a great diſtance before the hounds. Should you be deſirous to get a run over ſuch a country, the likelieſt means will be, to poſt a quiet and ſkilful perſon to halloo one off, and lay on to him. The further he is before you, the leſs likely he will be to return. The beſt method, however, to hunt a cover like this, is to ſtick conſtantly to it, not ſuffering the hounds to break, ſo long as one fox ſhall remain; do this two or three hunting days following: foxes will then fly, and you will have good chaces.

Nothing is more hurtful to hounds than the frequent changing of their country; ſhould they change from a good ſcenting country to a bad one, unleſs they have luck on their ſides, they may be ſome time without killing a fox; whereas hounds have always a great advantage in a country which they are uſed to. They not only know better where to find their game, but they will alſo purſue it with more alacrity afterwards.

This letter began by a digreſſion in favour of hunting; it will end with the opinion of a Frenchman, not ſo favourable to it. This Gentleman

tleman was in my neighbourhood on a viſit to the late Lord Caſtlehaven, who, being a great ſportſman, thought he could not oblige his friend more, than by letting him partake of an amuſement, which he himſelf was ſo fond of; he therefore mounted him on one of his beſt horſes, and ſhewed him a fox-chace. The Frenchman, after having been well ſhaken, dirted, tired, run away with, and thrown down, was aſked, on his return, "*comment il avoit trouvé la chaſſe?*"---"*Mor-*"*bleu! Milord,*" ſaid he, ſhrugging up his ſhoulders, "*votre chaſſe eſt une chaſſe diabolique.*"

LET-

LETTER XVIII.

BEFORE I proceed on my ſubject, give me leave to ſet you right in one particular, where I perceive you have miſunderſtood me. You ſay, you little expected to ſee the abilities of a huntſman degraded beneath thoſe of a whipper-in. This is a ſerious charge againſt me as a ſportſman; and though I cannot allow that I have put the cart before the horſe, in the manner you are pleaſed to mention; yet you have made it neceſſary for me to explain myſelf further.

I muſt therefore remind you, that I ſpeak of my own country only, a country full of riot; where the covers are large, and where there is a chace full of deer, and full of game. In ſuch a country as this, you that know ſo well how neceſſary it is for a pack of fox-hounds to be ſteady, and to be kept together, ought not to wonder that I ſhould prefer an excellent whipper-in to an excellent huntſman. No one knows better than yourſelf, how eſſential a good adjutant is to a regiment: believe me, a good whipper-in is not leſs neceſſary to a pack of fox-hounds. But I muſt beg you to obſerve, I mean only, *that I*

could do better with mediocrity in the one than in the other. If I have written any thing in a former letter that implies more, I beg leave to retract it in *this*. Yet I muſt confeſs to you, that a famous huntſman I am not very ambitious to have; unleſs, it neceſſarily followed, that he muſt have *famous hounds:* a concluſion I cannot admit, as long as theſe, ſo famous gentlemen, will be continually attempting themſelves to do what would be much better done if left to their hounds; beſides, they ſeldom are good ſervants, are always conceited, and ſometimes impertinent. I am very well ſatisfied if my huntſman be acquainted with his country and his hounds; if he ride well up to them, and if he have ſome knowledge of the nature of the animal which he is in purſuit of; but ſo far am I from wiſhing him to be famous, that I hope he will ſtill continue to think his hounds know beſt how to hunt a fox.

You ſay you agree with me, that a huntſman ſhould ſtick cloſe to his hounds. If then his place be fixed, and that of the firſt whipper-in (where you have two) be not, I cannot but think genius may be at leaſt as uſeful in one as in the other: for inſtance, while the huntſman is riding to his headmoſt hounds, the whipper-in, if he have genius, may ſhew it in various ways; he may clap forward to any great earth that may, by chance,

chance, be open; he may ſink the wind to halloo, or mob a fox, when the ſcent fails; he may keep him off his foil; he may ſtop the tail hounds, and get them forward; and has it frequently in his power to aſſiſt the hounds without doing them any hurt, provided he ſhould have ſenſe to diſtinguiſh where he may be chiefly wanted. Beſides, the moſt eſſential part of fox-hunting, the making and keeping the pack ſteady, depends entirely upon him; as a huntſman ſhould ſeldom rate, and never flog a hound. In ſhort, I conſider the firſt whipper-in as a ſecond huntſman; and, to be perfect, he ſhould be not leſs capable of hunting the hounds than the huntſman himſelf.

You cannot too much recommend to your whipper-in to get to the head of his hounds, before he attempts to ſtop them. The rating behind is to little purpoſe, and if they ſhould be in cover, may prevent him from knowing who the culprits are. When your hounds are running a fox, he then ſhould content himſelf with ſtopping ſuch as are riotous, and ſhould get them forward. They may be condemned upon the ſpot, but the puniſhment ſhould be deferred till the next day, when they may be taken out on purpoſe to commit the fault, and ſuffer the puniſhment. I agree with you, that young hounds cannot be awed too much; yet ſuffer not your puniſhment of

them to exceed their offence. I could wiſh to draw a line betwixt juſtice and barbarity.*

A whipper-in, while breaking in young hounds, ſometimes will rate them before they commit the fault: this may, perhaps, prevent them for that time, but they will be juſt as ready to begin the next opportunity. Had he not better let them quite alone till he ſee what they would be at? The diſcipline then may be proportioned to the degree of the offence. Whether a riotous young hound run little or much is of ſmall conſequence if he be not encouraged; it is the blood only that ſignifies, which in every kind of riot ſhould carefully be prevented.†

* I am ſorry that it ſhould be neceſſary to explain what I mean by *barbarity*. I mean *that* puniſhment, which is either unneceſſarily inflicted; which is inflicted with ſeverity; or from which no poſſible good can ariſe. Puniſhment, when properly applied, is not cruelty, is not revenge, it is juſtice; it is even mercy. The intention of puniſhment is to prevent crimes, and, conſequently, to prevent the neceſſity of puniſhing.

† It is not meant that hounds ſhould be ſuffered to continue on a wrong ſcent longer than may be neceſſary to know that the ſcent *is* a wrong one. This paſſage refers to page 88, where the author's meaning is more fully explained. It is introduced here more ſtrongly to mark the danger of encouraging hounds on a wrong ſcent, and indulging them afterwards in the blood of it.

My

My general orders to my whipper-in are, if when he rate a hound, the hound does not mind him, to take him up immediately, and give him a ſevere flogging. Whippers-in are too apt to continue rating, even when they find that rating will not avail. There is but one way to ſtop ſuch hounds, which is to get to the heads of them.—I will alſo tell him, never on any account to ſtrike a hound, unleſs the hound be at the ſame time ſenſible what it is for.—What think you of the whipper-in who ſtruck a hound as he was going to cover, becauſe he was likely to be noiſy afterwards, ſaying, "*you will be noiſy enough by* "*and by, I warrant you.*" Whippers-in, when left to themſelves, are rare judges of propriety! I wiſh they would never ſtrike a hound that does not deſerve it, and would ſtrike thoſe hard that do. They ſeldom diſtinguiſh ſufficiently the degrees of offence which a dog may have committed, to proportion their puniſhment accordingly; and ſuch is their ſtupidity, that when they turn a hound after the huntſman, they will rate him as ſeverely as if he had been guilty of the greateſt fault.

It is ſeldom neceſſary to flog hounds to make them obedient, ſince obedience is the firſt leſſon they are taught. Yet, if any ſhould be more riotous than the reſt, they may receive a few cuts in the morning before they leave the kennel.

When hounds prove unſteady, every poſſible means ſhould be taken to make them otherwiſe. A hare, or a deer, put into the kennel amongſt them, may then be neceſſary. Huntſmen are too fond of kennel diſcipline. You already know my opinion of it. I never allow it but in caſes of great neceſſity. I then am always preſent myſelf to prevent exceſs. To prevent an improper and barbarous uſe of ſuch diſcipline, I have already told you, is one of the chief objects of theſe letters. If what Montaigne ſays be true, that "there is a certain general claim of kindneſs and "benevolence which every creature has a right "to from us," ſurely we ought not to ſuffer unneceſſary ſeverity towards an animal to whom we are obliged for ſo much diverſion; and what opinion muſt we have of the huntſman who inflicts it on one to whom *he* owes his daily bread.*

* "Perhaps it is not the leaſt extraordinary circumſtance in theſe flogging lectures, that they ſhould be given with Montaigne, or any other moral author whatever, in recollection at the ſame inſtant!" (Vide Monthly Review.) Perhaps it is not the leaſt extraordinary circumſtance in theſe criticiſms, that this paſſage ſhould have been quoted as a proof of the author's inhumanity.—The critic ends his ſtrictures with the following exclamation: "Of a truth, a ſportſman is the moſt uniform, conſiſtent character, from his own repreſentation, that we ever contemplated!" and yet, perhaps, there are ſportſmen to be found, poſſeſſed of as tender feelings of humanity as any critic whatſoever. The motto prefixed to theſe letters, if it had been attended to, might have entitled the author to more candour than the critic has thought fit to beſtow upon him.

If

If any of my hounds be very riotous, they are taken out by themſelves on the days when they do not hunt, and properly puniſhed; and this is continued whilſt my patience laſts, which, of courſe, depends on the value of the dog. It is a trial betwixt the whipper in and the dog, which will tire firſt; and the whipper-in, I think, generally prevails. If this method will not make them ſteady, no other can; they then are looked upon as incorrigible, and are put away.

Such hounds as are notorious offenders ſhould alſo feel the laſh and hear a rate as they go to the cover; it may be an uſeful hint to them, and may prevent a ſeverer flogging afterwards. A ſenſible whipper-in will wait his opportunity to ſingle out his hound; he will then hit him hard, and rate him well, whilſt a fooliſh one will often hit a dog he did not intend to hit; will ride full gallop into the midſt of the hounds; will, perhaps, ride over ſome of the beſt of them, and put the whole pack into confuſion—this is a manœuvre I cannot bear to ſee.

Have a care! are words which ſeldom do any harm; ſince hounds, when they are on a right ſcent, will not mind them. Let your whipper-in be careful how he *encourage* the hounds; that, improperly done, may ſpoil your pack.

A whipper-in will rate a hound, and then endeavour to flog him. A dog, after having been rated, will naturally avoid the whip. Tell your whipper-in, whenever a hound ſhall deſerve the laſh, to whip him firſt, and rate him afterwards.

When there are two whippers-in, one ought always to be forward. When there is only *one*, he, to be perfect, ſhould be a very *Mungo*, *here*, *there*, and *every where*.

You will find it difficult to keep your people in their proper places; I have been obliged to ſtop back myſelf to bring on hounds which my ſervants had left behind. I cannot give you a greater proof how neceſſary it is that a whipper-in ſhould bring home all his hounds, than by telling you, that I had loſt an old hound for ten days, and ſent all the country over to inquire after him; and at laſt, when I thought no more about him, in drawing a large cover in the country where he had been loſt, he joined the pack; he was exceedingly emaciated, and it was a long time before he recovered: how he ſubſiſted all that time I cannot imagine. When any of your hounds may be miſſing, you ſhould ſend the whipper-in back immediately to look for them; it will teach him to keep them more together.

The

The getting forward the tail hounds is a neceſſary part of fox-hunting, in which you will find a good whipper-in of the greateſt uſe. He muſt alſo get forward himſelf at times, when the huntſman is not with the hounds; but the ſecond whipper-in (who frequently is a young lad, ignorant of his buſineſs) on no account ought to encourage or rate a hound, but when he is quite certain it is right to do it; nor is *he* ever to get forward, ſo long as a ſingle hound remains behind.

Halloo forward is certainly a neceſſary and a good halloo, but is it not uſed too indiſcriminately? it is for ever in the mouth of a whipper-in. If your hounds be never uſed to that halloo till after a fox be found, you will ſee them fly to it. At other times other halloos will anſwer the purpoſe of getting them on as well. *Halloo forward* being uſed as ſoon as the game is on foot, it ſeems as if another halloo were neceſſary to denote the breaking cover. *Away! away!* might anſwer that purpoſe. Gentlemen who are kind enough to ſtop back to aſſiſt hounds, ſhould have notice given them when the hounds leave the cover.

Moſt huntſmen, I believe, are jealous of the whipper-in; they frequently look on him as a ſucceſſor, and therefore do not very readily admit him into the kennel; yet, in my opinion, it is neceſſary

neceſſary that he ſhould go thither, for he ought to be well acquainted with the hounds, who ſhould know and follow him as well as the huntſman.

To recapitulate what I have already ſaid: if your whipper-in be bold and active; be a good and careful horſeman; have a good ear and a clear voice; if, as I ſaid, he be a very *Mungo*, having, at the ſame time, judgment to diſtinguiſh where he can be of moſt uſe; if, joined to theſe, he be above the fooliſh conceit of killing a fox without the huntſman; but, on the contrary, be diſpoſed to aſſiſt him all he can, he then is a perfect whipper-in.

I am ſorry to hear that your hounds are ſo unſteady; it is ſcarcely poſſible to have ſport with unſteady hounds; they are half tired before the fox is found, and are not to be depended upon afterwards. It is a great pleaſure when a hound challenges to be certain he is right: it is a cruel diſappointment to hear a rate immediately ſucceed it, and the ſmacking of whips, inſtead of halloos of encouragement. A few riotous and determined hounds do a deal of miſchief in a pack. Never, when you can avoid it, put them amongſt the reſt; let them be taken out by themſelves and well chaſtiſed, and if you find them incorrigible hang them. The common ſaying,

evil

evil communications corrupt good manners, holds good with regard to hounds; they are eaſily corrupted. The ſeparating of the riotous ones from thoſe which are ſteady anſwers many good purpoſes: it not only prevents the latter from getting the blood which they ſhould not, but it alſo prevents them from being over-awed by the ſmacking of whips, which is too apt to obſtruct drawing and going deep into cover. A couple of hounds, which I received from a neighbour laſt year, were hurtful to my pack. They had run with a pack of harriers, and, as I ſoon found, were never afterwards to be broken from hare. It was the beginning of the ſeaſon, covers were thick, hares in plenty, and we ſeldom killed leſs than five or ſix in a morning. The pack at laſt got ſo much blood, that they would hunt them as if they were deſigned to hunt nothing elſe. I parted with that couple of hounds, and the others, by proper management, are become as ſteady as they were before. You will remind me, perhaps, that they were draft-hounds. It is true, they were ſo; but they were three or four years hunters, an age when they might be ſuppoſed to have known better. I adviſe you, unleſs a known good pack of hounds are to be diſpoſed of, not to accept old hounds. I mention this to encourage the breeding of hounds, and as the likelieſt means of getting a *handſome, good,* and *ſteady pack:* though I give you this advice, it is true, I have accepted

draft-hounds myſelf, and they have been very good; but they were the gift of the friend mentioned by me in a former letter, to whom I have already acknowledged many obligations; and, unleſs you meet with ſuch a one, old hounds will not prove worthy your acceptance:* beſides, they may bring vices enough along with them to ſpoil your whole pack. If old hounds ſhould be unſteady, it may not be in your power to make them otherwiſe; and I can aſſure you from experience, that an unſteady old hound will give you more trouble than all your young ones; the latter will at leaſt ſtop, but an obſtinate old hound will frequently run mute, if he find that he can run no other way; beſides, old hounds that are unacquainted with your people will not readily hunt for them as they ought; and ſuch as were ſteady in their own pack may become unſteady in your's. I once ſaw an extraordinary inſtance of this when I kept harriers: hunting one day on the downs, a well-known fox-hound of a neighbouring gentleman came and joined us, and as he both ran faſter than we did, and ſkirted more, he broke every fault, and killed many hares. I ſaw this hound often in his own pack afterwards, where he was perfectly ſteady; and, though he conſtantly hunted in covers where hares were in

* The Hon. Mr. Booth Grey, brother to the Earl of Stamford. The hounds here alluded to were from Lord Stamford's kennel.

great

great plenty, I never remember to have ſeen him run one ſtep after them.

A change of country alſo will ſometimes occaſion a difference in the ſteadineſs of hounds. My hounds hunt frequently in Cranborn Chace, and are ſteady from deer, yet I once knew them run an outlying deer, which they unexpectedly found in a diſtant country.

I am ſorry to hear ſo bad an accident has happened to your pack as that of killing ſheep; but, I apprehend, from your account of it, that it proceeded from idleneſs rather than vice. The manner in which the ſheep were killed may give you ſome inſight into it; old practitioners generally ſeizing by the neck, and ſeldom, if ever, behind. This, like other vices, ſometimes runs in the blood; in an old hound it is, I believe, incorrigible; the beſt way, therefore, will be to hang all thoſe which, after two or three whippings, cannot be cured of it. In ſome countries hounds are more inclined to kill ſheep than they are in others. Hounds may be ſteady in countries where the covers are fenced, and ſheep are only to be ſeen in flocks, either in large fields, or on open downs; and the ſame hounds may be unſteady in foreſts and heathy countries where the ſheep are not leſs wild than the deer. However hounds, ſhould they ſtir but a ſtep after

them, ſhould undergo the ſevereſt diſcipline; if young hounds do it from idleneſs, *that*, and plenty of work, may reclaim them; for old hounds, guilty of this vice, I know, as I ſaid before, of but one ſure remedy—*the halter*.

Though I ſo ſtrongly recommend to you to make your hounds ſteady, from having ſeen unſteady packs, yet I muſt alſo add, that I have frequently ſeen the men even more unſteady than the hounds. It is ſhocking to hear hounds hallooed one minute and rated the next: nothing offends a good ſportſman ſo much, or is in itſelf ſo hurtful. I will give you an inſtance of the danger of it;—my beagles were remarkably ſteady; they hunted hare in Cranborn Chace, where deer are in great plenty, and would draw for hours without taking the leaſt notice of them. When tired of hare-hunting, I was inclined to try if I could find any diverſion in hunting of fallow deer. I had been told, that it would be impoſſible to do it with thoſe hounds that had been made ſteady from them; and, to put it to the trial, I took them into a cover of my own, which has many ridings cut in it, and where are many deer. The firſt deer we ſaw we hallooed, and by great encouragement, and conſtant hallooing, there were but few of theſe ſteady hounds but would run the ſcent. They hunted deer conſtantly from that day, and never loſt one afterwards.

wards. Dogs are ſenſible animals; they ſoon find out what is required of them, when we do not confuſe them by our own heedleſsneſs: when we encourage them to hunt a ſcent which they have been rated from, and, perhaps, ſeverely chaſtiſed for hunting, they muſt needs think us cruel, capricious, and inconſiſtent.*

If you know any pack that is very unſteady, depend upon it, either no care has been taken in entering the young hounds to make them ſteady; or elſe the men, afterwards, by hallooing them on improperly, and to a wrong ſcent, have forced them to become ſo.

The firſt day of the ſeaſon I adviſe you to take out your pack where you have leaſt riot, and where you are moſt ſure to find; for, notwithſtanding their ſteadineſs at the end of the laſt ſeaſon, long reſt may have made them otherwiſe.

* Though all hounds ought to be made obedient, none require it ſo much as fox-hounds, for without it they will be totally uncontroulable; yet, not all the chaſtiſement that cruelty can inflict will render them obedient, unleſs they be made to underſtand what is required of them; when that is effected, many hounds will not need chaſtiſement, if you do not ſuffer them to be corrupted by bad example. Few packs are more obedient than my own, yet none, I believe, are chaſtiſed leſs; for, as thoſe hounds that are guilty of an offence, *are never pardoned*, ſo thoſe that are innocent, being by this means leſs liable to be corrupted, *are never puniſhed*.

If

If you have any hounds more vicious than the reſt, they ſhould be left at home a day or two, till the others are well in blood: your people, without doubt, will be particularly cautious at the beginning of the ſeaſon what hounds they halloo to: ſhould they be encouraged on a wrong ſcent it will be a great hurt to them.

The firſt day that you hunt in the foreſt, be equally cautious what hounds you take out. All ſhould be ſteady from deer; you afterwards may put others to them, a few at a time. I have ſeen a pack draw ſteadily enough; and yet, when running hard, fall on a weak deer, and reſt as contented as if they had killed their fox. Theſe hounds were not chaſtiſed, though caught in the fact, but were ſuffered to draw on for a freſh fox; I had rather they had undergone ſevere diſcipline. The finding of another fox with them afterwards might then have been of ſervice; otherwiſe, in my opinion, it could only ſerve to encourage them in the vice, and make them worſe and worſe.

I muſt mention an inſtance of extraordinary ſagacity in a fox-beagle, which once belonged to the Duke of Cumberland. I entered him at hare, to which he was immediately ſo ſteady, that he would run nothing elſe. When a fox was found by the beagles, which ſometimes happened, he would

would inſtantly come to the heels of the huntſman's horſe: ſome years afterwards I hunted fox *only*, and though I parted with moſt of the others, I kept *him:* he went out conſtantly with the pack, and as hares were ſcarce in the country I then hunted, he did no hurt; the moment a fox was found, he came to the horſe's heels. This continued ſome time, till catching view of a fox that was ſinking, he ran in with the reſt, and was well blooded. He, from that time to the day of his death, was not only as ſteady a hound to *fox* as ever I knew, but became alſo our very beſt finder. I bred ſome buck-hounds from him, and they are remarkable for never changing from a hunted deer.

Your huntſman's weekly return is a very curious one; he is particularly happy in the ſpelling. The following letter, which is in the ſame ſtyle, may make you laugh, and is, perhaps, no unſuitable return for your's.

SIR

HONOURED * — — — —

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I have been out with the hounds this day to ayer the froſt is very bad the hounds are all pure well at preſent and horſes ſhephard has had a misfortin with his marc ſhe hung harſelf with the holtar and throd har ſelf and broak har neck and frac tard ſkul ſo we was forsd to nock har In the head from your ever dutiful Humbel Sarvant.

**** ******

Wedneſday evening.

* The lines omitted were not upon the ſubject of hunting.

LET-

LETTER XIX.

FINDING, by your laſt letter, that an early hour does not ſuit you, I will mention ſome particulars which may be of uſe to you when you hunt late: an early hour is only neceſſary where covers are large, and foxes ſcarce; where they are in plenty, you may hunt at any hour you pleaſe. When foxes are weak, by hunting late you have better chaces; when they are ſtrong, give me leave to tell you, you muſt hunt early, or you will not always kill them. I think, however, when you go out late, you ſhould go immediately to the place where you are moſt likely to find; which, generally ſpeaking, is the cover that hounds have been leaſt in. If the cover be large, you ſhould draw only ſuch parts of it as a fox is likely to kennel in; it is uſeleſs to draw any other at a late hour. Beſides, though it be always right to find as ſoon as you can, yet it can never be ſo neceſſary as when the day is far advanced: if you do not find ſoon, a long and tireſome day is generally the conſequence. Where the cover is thick, you ſhould draw it as exactly as if you were trying for a hare: particularly if it be furzy: for, when there is no drag, a fox, at a late hour,

will lie till the hounds come clofe upon him.—Having drawn one cover, let your huntfman ftay for his hounds, and take them along with him to another: I have known hounds find a fox after the huntfman had left the cover. The whippers-in are not to be fparing of their whips, or voices on this occafion, and are to come through the middle of the cover, to be certain that they leave no hounds behind.

A huntfman will complain of hounds for ftaying behind in cover.—It is a great fault, and makes the hound addicted to it of but little value; yet this fault frequently is occafioned by the huntfman's own mifmanagement. Having drawn one cover, he hurries away to another, and leaves the whipper-in to bring on the hounds after him; but the whipper-in is feldom lefs defirous of getting forward than the huntfman; and, unlefs they come off eafily, it is not often that he will give himfelf much concern about them. Hounds alfo that are left too long at their walks, will acquire this trick from hunting by themfelves, and are not eafily broken of it.—Having faid all that I can at prefent recollect of the duty of a whipper-in, I fhall now proceed to give you a further account of *that* of a huntfman. What has already been faid on the fubject of *drawing* and *caſting*, related to the fox-chace defcribed in a former letter.—Much, without doubt, is ſtill left to ſay; and I

will endeavour, as well as I am able, to ſupply the deficiency, by conſidering, firſt, in what manner he ſhould draw; and afterwards, how he ſhould caſt his hounds.

The fixing a day or two beforehand upon the cover in which you intend to hunt, is a great hindrance to ſport in fox-hunting. You that have the whole country to yourſelf, and can hunt on either ſide of your houſe, as you pleaſe, ſhould never, (when you can help it) determine on your place of hunting, till you ſee what the weather is likely to be.* The moſt probable means to have good chaces, is to chooſe your country according to the wind.

It will alſo require ſome conſideration to place hounds to the greateſt advantage where foxes either are in great plenty, or very ſcarce.

Hounds that lie idle, are always out of wind, and are eaſily fatigued. The firſt day you go out after a long froſt, you cannot expect much ſport; take therefore, conſiderably more than the uſual number of hounds, and throw them into the largeſt cover that you have; if any foxes be

* When the ſcent lies badly, ſmall covers, or thoſe in which a fox cannot move unſeen, are moſt favourable to hounds. In ſuch covers, good ſportſmen will kill foxes in almoſt any weather.

in the country, it is *there* you will find them. After once or twice going out in this manner, you ſhould reduce your number.*

Before a huntſman goes into the kennel to draft his hounds, let him determine within himſelf the number of hounds it will be right to take out; as likewiſe the number of young hounds that he can venture in the country where he is going to hunt. Different countries may require different hounds: ſome may require more hounds than others: it is not an eaſy matter to draft hounds properly; nor can any expedition be made in it, without ſome method.†

I ſel-

* During a froſt, hounds may be exerciſed on downs, or the turnpike roads; nor will it do any material injury to their feet. Prevented from hunting, they ſhould be fed ſparingly; and ſuch as can do without fleſh, ſhould have none given them. A courſe of vegetables, ſulphur, and thin meat is the likelieſt means to keep them healthy.

† No hound ought to be left at home, unleſs there be a reaſon for it; it is therefore that I ſay great nicety is required to draft hounds *properly*. Many huntſmen, I believe, think it of no great conſequence which they take out, and which they leave, provided they have the number requiſite. A perfect knowledge in feeding and drafting hounds, are the two moſt eſſential parts of fox-hunting: good hounds will require but little aſſiſtance afterwards. By *feeding*, I mean the bringing the hound into the field, in his higheſt vigour. By *drafting*, I particularly mean the taking out no unſteady hound, nor any that are

I ſeldom ſuffer many unſteady hounds to be taken out together; and when I do, I take care that none ſhall go out with them, but ſuch as they cannot ſpoil.

When the place of meeting, and time are fixed, every huntſman ought to be as exact to them as it is poſſible. On no account is he to be *before* the time; yet, on ſome occaſions, it might be better, perhaps, for the diverſion, were he permitted to be *after it.** The courſe your huntſman intends to take in drawing, ought alſo to be well underſtood before he leaves the kennel.

If your huntſman, without inconveniency, can begin drawing at the fartheſt cover down the wind, and ſo draw from cover to cover up the

are not likely to be of ſervice to the pack:—when you intend to hunt two days following, it is then that the greateſt nicety will be requiſite to make the moſt of a ſmall pack. Placing hounds to the greateſt advantage, as mentioned in page 228, may alſo be conſidered as a neceſſary part of fox-hunting

Hounds that are intended to hunt the next day, and are drafted off into the hunting kennel as ſoon as they are fed, ſhould be let out again into the outer court in the evening: my hounds have generally ſome thin meat given them at this time, while the feeder cleans out their kennel. (vide note page 44.) I have already ſaid that cleanlineſs is not leſs eſſential than food.

* When there is a white froſt for inſtance, at the going off of which, the ſcent never lies.

wind till you find, let him do it: it will have many advantages attending it: he will draw the ſame covers in half the time; your people cannot fail of being in their proper places; you will have leſs difficulty in getting your hounds off; and as the fox will moſt probably run the covers that have been already drawn, you are leaſt likely to change.

If you have a ſtring of ſmall covers, and plenty of foxes in them, ſome caution may be neceſſary to prevent your hounds from diſturbing them all in one day. Never hunt your ſmall covers till you have well rattled the large ones firſt; for until the foxes be thinned and diſperſed, where they were in plenty, it muſt be bad policy to drive others there to increaſe the number.—If you would thin your foxes, you muſt throw off at the ſame cover as long as you can find a fox. If you come off with the fox that breaks, you do not diſturb the cover, and may expect to find there again the next day; but where they are ſcarce, you ſhould never draw the ſame cover two days following.

Judicious huntſmen will obſerve where foxes like beſt to lie. In chaces and foreſts, where you have a great tract of cover to draw, ſuch obſervation is neceſſary, or you will loſe much time in finding. Generally ſpeaking, I think they are fondeſt of

of ſuch as lie high, and are dry and thick at bottom; ſuch alſo as lie out of the wind; and ſuch as are on the ſunny ſide of hills.* The ſame cover where you find one fox, when it has remained quiet any time, will probably produce another.

It is to little purpoſe to draw hazle coppices at the time when nuts are gathered; furze covers, or two or three years coppices, are then the only quiet places that a fox can kennel in: *they* alſo are diſturbed when pheaſant-ſhooting begins, and older covers are more likely. The ſeaſon when foxes are moſt wild and ſtrong is about Chriſtmas; a huntſman, then, muſt loſe no time in drawing; he muſt draw up the wind; unleſs the cover be very large, in which caſe it may be better perhaps to croſs it; giving the hounds a ſide wind, leſt he ſhould be obliged to turn down the wind at laſt:—in either caſe let him draw as quietly as he can.

Young coppices, at this time of the year, are quite bare; the moſt likely places are four or five years coppices, and ſuch as are furzy at bottom.

* This muſt of courſe vary in different countries, a huntſman who has been uſed to a country knows beſt where to find his game.

It is eaſy to perceive, by the account you give of your hounds, that they do not draw well; your huntſman, therefore, muſt be particularly attentive to them after a wet night. The beſt drawing hounds are ſhy of ſearching a cover when it is wet; your's, if care be not taken, will not go into it at all: your huntſman ſhould ride into the likelieſt part of the cover, and as it is probable there will be no drag, the cloſer he draws the better: he muſt not draw too much an end, but ſhould croſs the cover backwards and forwards, taking care at the ſame time to give his hounds as much the wind as poſſible.*

It is not often that you will ſee a pack perfectly ſteady, where there is much riot, and yet draw well: ſome hounds will not exert themſelves, till others challenge, and are encouraged.†

I fear the many harriers that you have in your neighbourhood will be hurtful to your ſport. by conſtantly diſturbing the covers, they will make

* Hounds that are hunted conſtantly at an early hour, ſeldom I think draw well; they depend too much upon a drag, and it is not in the ſtrongeſt part of the cover that they are accuſtomed to try for it.

† This relates to making hounds ſteady only, which always cauſes confuſion, and interrupts drawing. When once a pack are become ſteady, they will be more likely to draw well, than if they were not.

the foxes ſhy, and when the covers become thin, there will be but little chance of finding foxes in them: furze covers are then the moſt likely places. Though I like not to ſee a huntſman to a pack of fox-hounds ever off his horſe, yet, at a late hour, he ſhould draw a furze cover as ſlowly as he were himſelf on foot. I am well convinced that huntſmen, by drawing in too great a hurry, leave foxes ſometimes behind them. I once ſaw a remarkable inſtance of it with my own hounds: we had drawn (as we thought) a cover, which in the whole, conſiſted of about ten acres; yet, whilſt the huntſman was blowing his horn, to get his hounds off, one young fox was hallooed, and another was ſeen immediately after: it was a cover on the ſide of a hill, and the foxes had kennelled cloſe together at an extremity of it, where no hound had been. Some huntſmen draw too quick, ſome too ſlow;—the time of day, the behaviour of his hounds, and the covers they are drawing, will direct an obſerving huntſman in the pace which he ought to go. When you try a furze brake, let me give you one caution;—never halloo a fox till you ſee that he is quite clear of it. When a fox is found in ſuch places, hounds are ſure to go off well with him; and it muſt be owing either to bad ſcent, bad hounds, bad management, or bad luck, if they fail to kill him afterwards.

It is uſual in moſt packs to rate, as ſoon as a young hound challenges. Though young hounds are often wrong, yet ſince it is not impoſſible that they may be ſometimes right, is it not as well to have a little patience, in order to ſee whether any of the old ones will join, before any thing is ſaid to them? *Have a care!* is fully ſufficient, till you are more certain that the hound is on a wrong ſcent. I mention this as a hint only—I am myſelf no enemy to a *rate*—I cannot think that a fox was ever loſt, or pack ſpoiled by it: it is *improper encouragement* that I am afraid of moſt.

When a fox ſlinks from his kennel, gets a great way before the hounds, and you are obliged to hunt after him with a bad ſcent; if it be a country where foxes are in plenty, and you know where to find another, you had better do it.*

While hounds are drawing for a fox, let your people place themſelves in ſuch a manner that he cannot go off unſeen. I have known them lie in ſheep's ſcrapes on the ſide of hills, and in ſmall buſhes, where huntſmen never think of looking for them; yet, when they hear a hound, they generally ſhift their quarters, and make for cloſer

* Yet if this were practiſed often, it might make the hounds indifferent when upon a cold ſcent. Hounds ſhould be made to believe they are to kill that game which they are firſt encouraged to purſue.

covers.

covers.—Gentlemen ſhould take this neceſſary part of fox-hunting on themſelves, for the whipper-in has other buſineſs to attend on.*

I approve not of long drags in large covers; they give too great an advantage to the fox, they give him a hint to make the beſt of his way, and he frequently will ſet off a long while before you. This may be prevented by throwing your hounds into that part of the cover, in which he is moſt likely to kennel: for want of this precaution, a fox ſometimes gets ſo far the ſtart of hounds, that they are not able to do any thing with him afterwards. Alſo, when hounds firſt touch on a drag, ſome huntſmen are ſo careleſs, that whilſt they are going on with it the wrong way themſelves, a ſingle hound the fox, and is not caught any more by the pack, till he has loſt him again.

Foxes are ſaid to go down the wind to their kennel; but, I believe, they do not always obſerve that rule.

Huntſmen, whilſt their hounds, are drawing, or are at a fault, frequently make ſo much noiſe themſelves, that they can hear nothing elſe: they

* Upon theſe occaſions, when you ſee two gentlemen *together*, you may reaſonably conclude that one of them, at leaſt, knows nothing of the matter.

ſhould

ſhould always have an ear to a halloo. I once ſaw an extraordinary inſtance of the want of it in my own huntſman, who was making ſo much noiſe with his hounds which were then at fault, that a man hallooed a long while before he heard him; and when he did hear him, ſo little did he know whence the halloo came, that he rode two miles the wrong way, and loſt the fox.

When hounds approach a cover which it is intended they ſhould draw, and daſh away towards it, whippers-in ride after them to ſtop them. It is too late, and they had better let them alone; it checks them in their drawing, and is of no kind of uſe; it will be ſoon enough to begin to rate when they have found, and hunt improper game: when a huntſman has his hounds under good command, and is attentive to them, they will not break off till he chooſe that they ſhould. When he goes by the ſide of a cover which he does not intend to draw, his whippers-in muſt be in their proper places; for if he ſhould ride up to a cover with them unawed, uncontrouled; a cover where they have been uſed to find, they muſt be ſlack indeed, if they do not daſh into it. It is for that reaſon better, not to come into a cover always the ſame way; hounds, by not knowing what is going forward will be leſs likely to break off, and will draw more quietly. I have ſeen hounds ſo flaſhy, that they would break away from the huntſman

huntſman as ſoon as they ſaw a cover; and I have ſeen the ſame hounds ſtop when they got to the cover ſide, and not go into it. It is want of proper diſcipline which occaſions faults like theſe. Hounds that are under ſuch command as never to leave their huntſman till he encourage them to do it, will be then ſo confident, that they will not return to him again.

Were fox-hounds to ſtop, like ſtop-hounds, at the ſmack of a whip, they would not do their buſineſs the worſe for it, and it would give you many advantages very eſſential to your ſport;—ſuch, as when they have to wait under a cover ſide; when they run riot; when they change ſcents; when a ſingle hound is on before; and when a fox is headed back into a cover. Hounds that are not under good command ſubject you to many inconveniencies; and you may, at times, be obliged to go out of your way, or be made to draw a cover againſt your will. A famous pack of hounds in my neighbourhood, I mean the late Lord C——n's, had no fault but what had its riſe from bad management; nor is it poſſible to do any thing with a pack of fox-hounds unleſs they be obedient: they ſhould both love and fear the huntſman; they ſhould fear him much, yet they ſhould love him more. Without doubt hounds would do more for the huntſman if they loved him better. Dogs that are conſtantly with their

maſters

maſters acquire a wonderful deal of penetration, and much may be done through the medium of their affections. I attribute the extraordinary ſagacity of the buck-hound to the manner in which he is treated; he is the conſtant companion of his inſtructor and benefactor; the man whom he was firſt taught to fear, and has ſince learned to love: ought we to wonder that he ſhould be obedient to him? Yet, who can view without ſurpriſe the hounds and the deer amuſing themſelves familiarly together upon the ſame lawn; living, as it were, in the moſt friendly intercourſe; and know that a word from the keeper will diſſolve the amity. The obedient dog, gentle when unprovoked, flies to the well-known ſummons; how changed from what he was! rouſed from his peaceful ſtate, and cheered by his maſter's voice, he is now cheered on with a relentleſs fury that only death can ſatisfy—the death of the *very deer* he is encouraged to purſue; and which the various ſcents that croſs him in his way cannot tempt him to forſake. The buſineſs of the day over, ſee him follow, careleſs and contented, his maſter's ſteps to repoſe upon the ſame lawn, where the frightened deer again return, and are again indebted to *his* courteſy for their wonted paſture. Wonderful proofs of obedience, ſagacity, and penetration! The many learned dogs and learned horſes that ſo frequently appear, and aſtoniſh the vulgar, ſufficiently evince what education

T. Cook fc.

Earth Stopping.

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cation is capable of; and it is to education I muſt chiefly attribute the ſuperior excellence of the buck-hound, ſince I have ſeen high-bred fox-hounds do the ſame under the ſame good maſters. But to return to my ſubject.

Young foxes, that have been much diſturbed, will lie at ground. I once found ſeven or eight in a cover, where the next day I could not find one; nor were they to be found elſewhere: the earths, at ſuch time, ſhould be ſtopped three or four hours before day, or you will find no foxes.

The firſt day you hunt a cover that is full of foxes, and you want blood, let them not be checked back into the cover, which is the uſual practice at ſuch times, but let ſome of them get off: if you do not, what with continual changing, and ſometimes running the heel, it is probable that you will not kill any. Another precaution, I think, may be alſo neceſſary; that is, to ſtop ſuch earths only as you cannot dig. If ſome foxes ſhould go to ground it will be as well; and if you ſhould be in want of blood at laſt, you will then know where to get it.

It is uſual, when people are not certain of the ſteadineſs of their hounds from deer, to find a fox in an adjacent cover, that they may be on their right ſcent when they come where deer are.

I have my doubts of the propriety of this proceeding: if hounds have not been well awed from deer, it is not fit that they at any rate ſhould come among them; but if hounds be tolerably ſteady, I had rather find a fox with them amongſt deer, than bring them afterwards into covers where deer are. By drawing amongſt them, they in ſome degree will be awed from the ſcent, and poſſibly may ſtick to the fox when he is found; but ſhould unſteady hounds, when high on their mettle, run into a cover where deer are in plenty, there is no doubt, that the firſt check they come to they will all fall off. I always have found hounds moſt inclined to riot when moſt upon their mettle; ſuch as are given to ſheep will then kill ſheep; and ſuch as are not quite ſteady from deer will then be moſt likely to break off after them. When hounds are encouraged on a ſcent, if they loſe that ſcent, it is then an unſteady hound is ready for any kind of miſchief.

I have already ſaid, that a huntſman ought never to flog a hound. When a riotous hound, conſcious of his offence, may eſcape from the whipper-in, and fly to the huntſman, you will ſee him put his whole pack into confuſion by endeavouring to chaſtiſe him himſelf. This is the height of abſurdity! Inſtead of flogging the hound he ought to encourage him, who ſhould always have ſome place to fly to for protection. If the

offend-

offence be a bad one, let him get off his horſe and couple up the dog, leaving him to be chaſtiſed by the whipper-in, after he himſelf is gone on with the pack: the puniſhment over, let him again encourage the hound to come to him. Hounds that are riotous in cover, and will not come off readily to the huntſman's halloo, ſhould be flogged in the cover rather than out of it;—treated in this manner, you will not find any difficulty in getting your hounds off; otherwiſe, they will ſoon find that the cover will ſave them; from whence they will have more ſenſe, when they have committed an offence, than to come to receive puniſhment. A favourite hound, that has acquired a habit of ſtaying back in large covers, had better not be taken into them.

I have been more particular than I otherwiſe ſhould have been, upon a ſuppoſition that your hounds draw ill; however, you need not obſerve all the cautions I have given, unleſs your hounds require them.

Some art may be neceſſary to make the moſt of the country that you hunt. I would adviſe you not to draw the covers near your houſe, while you can find elſewhere; it will make them certain places to find in when you go out late, or may otherwiſe be in want of them. For the ſame reaſon, I would adviſe you not to hunt thoſe covers late in the ſea-

ſon; they ſhould not be much diſturbed after Chriſtmas: foxes will then reſort to them, will breed there, and you can preſerve them with little trouble. This relates to the good management of a pack of hounds, which is a buſineſs diſtinct from hunting them.

Though a huntſman ought to be as ſilent as poſſible at going into a cover, he cannot be too noiſy at coming out of it again; and if at any time he ſhould turn back ſuddenly, let him give as much notice of it as he can to his hounds, or he will leave many behind him; and ſhould he turn down the wind, he may ſee no more of them.

I ſhould be ſorry that the ſilence of my huntſman ſhould proceed from either of the following cauſes.—A huntſman that I once knew, (who, by the bye, I believe, is at this time a drummer in a marching regiment) went out one morning ſo very drunk, that he got off his horſe in the midſt of a thick cover, laid himſelf down, and went to ſleep:—he was loſt, nobody knew what was become of him, and he was at laſt found in the ſituation I have juſt deſcribed. He had, however, great good luck on his ſide, for at the very inſtant he was found a fox was hallooed; upon which he mounted his horſe, rode deſperately, killed his fox handſomely, and was forgiven.

I re-

I remember another huntſman ſilent from a different cauſe; this was a ſulky one. Things did not go on to pleaſe him; he therefore alighted from his horſe in the middle of a wood, and, as quietly as he could, collected his hounds about him; he then took an opportunity, when the coaſt was clear, to ſet off ſilently, and by himſelf, for another cover: however his maſter, who knew his tricks, ſent others after him to bring him back; they found him running a fox moſt merrily, and, to his great aſtoniſhment, they ſtopped the hounds, and made him go back along with them. This fellow had often been ſeverely beaten, but was ſtubborn and ſulky to the laſt.

To give you an idea before I quit this ſubject, how little ſome people know of fox-hunting, I muſt tell you, that not long ago a gentleman aſked me if I did not ſend people out *the day before* to find where the foxes lay.

What relates to the caſting of hounds ſhall be the ſubject of my next letter.

LETTER XX.

IN my ſeventeenth letter I gave the opinion of my friend ****—" *that a pack of fox-hounds,* " *if left entirely to themſelves, would never loſe a* " *fox.*" I am always ſorry when I differ from that gentleman in any thing; yet I am ſo far from thinking they never would loſe a fox, that I doubt much if they would ever kill one. There are times when hounds ſhould be helped, and at all times they muſt be kept forward; hounds will naturally tie on a cold ſcent when ſtopped by ſheep or other impediments; and when they are no longer able to get forward, will oftentimes hunt the old ſcent back again, if they find that they can hunt no other. It is the judicious encouraging of hounds to hunt when they cannot run, and the preventing them from loſing time by hunting too much when they might run, that diſtinguiſhes a good ſportſman from a bad one.* Hounds that have been well taught will caſt forward to a hedge of their own accord; but you may aſſure yourſelf, this excellence is never acquired by ſuch as are

* In hunting a pack of hounds a proper medium ſhould be obſerved; for though too much help will make them ſlack, too little will make them tie on the ſcent and hunt back the heel.

left

left entirely to themſelves. To ſuffer a pack of fox-hounds to hunt through a flock of ſheep, when it is eaſy to make a regular caſt round them, is, in my judgment, very unneceſſary—it is wilfully loſing time to no purpoſe. I have indeed been told, that hounds at no time ſhould be taken off their noſes: I ſhall only ſay, in anſwer to this, that a fox-hound who will not bear lifting is not worth the keeping; and I will venture to ſay, it ſhould be made part of his education.

Though I like to ſee fox-hounds caſt wide and forward, and diſlike to ſee them pick a cold ſcent through flocks of ſheep to no purpoſe, yet I muſt beg leave to obſerve, that I diſlike ſtill more to ſee that unaccountable hurry which huntſmen will ſometimes put themſelves into the moment their hounds are at fault: time ought always to be allowed them to make their own caſt; and if a huntſman be judicious, he will take that opportunity to conſider what part he himſelf has next to act; but, inſtead of this, I have ſeen hounds hurried away the very inſtant they came to a fault, a wide caſt made, and the hounds at laſt brought back again to the very place from whence they were ſo abruptly taken; and where, if the huntſman could have had a minute's patience, they would have hit off the ſcent themſelves. It is always great impertinence in a huntſman to pretend to make *his* caſt before the hounds

have made *their's*. Prudence ſhould direct him to encourage, and I may ſay, humour his hounds in the caſt they ſeem inclined to make; and either to ſtand ſtill, or trot round with them, as circumſtances may require.

I have ſeen huntſmen make their caſt on bad ground when they might as eaſily have made it on good: I have ſeen them ſuffer their hounds to try in the midſt of a flock of ſheep, when there was a hedge near, where they might have been ſure to take the ſcent; and I have ſeen a caſt made with every hound at their horſe's heels. When a hound tries for the ſcent his noſe is to the ground; when a huntſman makes a caſt his eye ſhould be on his hounds; and when he ſees them ſpread wide, and try as they ought, his caſt may then be quick.

When hounds are at fault, and the huntſman halloos them off the line of the ſcent, the whippers-in ſmacking their whips and rating them after him, if he ſhould trot away with them, may they not think that the buſineſs of the day is over?—Hounds never, in my opinion, (unleſs in particular caſes, or when you go to a halloo) ſhould be taken entirely off their noſes; but when lifted, ſhould be conſtantly made to try as they go. Some huntſmen have a dull, ſtupid way of ſpeaking to their hounds; at theſe times little ſhould be ſaid, and

and that ſhould have both meaning and expreſſion in it.

When your huntſman makes a caſt, I hope he makes it perfect one way before he tries another, as much time is loſt in going backwards and forwards. You will ſee huntſmen, when a forward caſt does not ſucceed, come ſlowly back again—they ſhould return as faſt as they can.

When hounds are in fault, and it is probable that the fox has headed back, your caſt forward ſhould be ſhort and quick, for the ſcent is then likely to be behind you; too obſtinate a perſeverance forward has been the loſs of many foxes. In heathy countries, if there be many roads, foxes will always run them in dry weather; when hounds, therefore, over-run the ſcent, if your huntſman return to the firſt croſs road, he, probably, will hit off the ſcent again.

In large covers where there are ſeveral roads; in bad ſcenting days when theſe roads are dry; or, after a thaw, when they carry; it is neceſſary that your huntſman ſhould be near to his hounds, to help them and hold them forward. Foxes will run the roads at theſe times, and hounds cannot always own the ſcent. When they are at fault on a dry road, let not your huntſman turn back too ſoon, let him not ſtop till he can be certain that the

the fox is not gone on; the hounds ſhould try on both ſides the road at once: if he perceive that they try on one ſide only, let him try the other, on his return.

When hounds are running in cover, if a huntſman ſhould ſee a fox come into a road, and cannot ſee which way he turns afterwards, let him ſtand ſtill, and ſay nothing. If he ride on, he muſt ride over the ſcent; and if he encourage the hounds, they, moſt probably, would run beyond it.

Wide ridings, cut through large woods, render them leſs exceptionable to ſportſmen than they otherwiſe might be; yet I do not think that they are of ſervice to hounds:—they are taught to ſhuffle; and, the fox being frequently headed back, they are put to many faults:—the roads are foiled by the horſes, and the hounds often interrupted by the horſemen:—ſuch ridings only are advantageous, as enable the ſervants belonging to the hounds to get to them.

If a fox ſhould run up the wind, when firſt found, and afterwards turn, he will ſeldom, if ever turn again. This obſervation may not only be of uſe to your huntſman in his caſt, but may be of uſe to yourſelf, if you ſhould loſe the hounds.

When

When you are purſuing a fox over a country, the ſcent being bad, and the fox a long way before, without ever having been preſſed, if his point ſhould be for ſtrong earths that are open, or for large covers, where game is in plenty, it may be acting wiſely to take off the hounds at the firſt fault; for the fox will go many miles to your one, and probably will run you out of all ſcent; and if he ſhould not, you will be likely to change at the firſt cover you come into:—when a fox has been hard preſſed, you have already my opinion, that he never ſhould be given up.

When you would recover a hunted fox, and have no longer ſcent to hunt him by, a long caſt to the firſt cover which he ſeems to point for, is the only reſource that you have left: get thither as faſt as you can, and then let your hounds try as ſlowly and as quietly as poſſible: if hunting after him be hopeleſs, and a long caſt do not ſucceed, you had better give him up—I need not remind you, when the ſcent lies badly, and you find it impoſſible for hounds to run, that you had better return home; ſince the next day may be more favourable. It ſurely is a great fault in a huntſman to perſevere in bad weather, when hounds cannot run; and when there is not a probability of killing a fox.* Some there are, who,

* Though I would not go out on a very windy day, yet a bad ſcenting day is ſometimes of ſervice to a pack of fox-hounds—they acquire patience from it, and method of hunting.

after

after they have loſt one fox for want of ſcent to hunt him by, will find another; this makes their hounds ſlack, and ſometimes vicious: it alſo diſturbs the covers to no purpoſe. Some ſportſmen are more lucky in their days than others. If you hunt every other day, it is poſſible they may be all bad, and the intermediate days all good; an indifferent pack, therefore, by hunting on good days, may kill foxes without any merit; and a good pack, notwithſtanding all their exertions, may loſe foxes which they deſerve to kill. Had I a ſufficiency of hounds I would hunt on every good day, and never on a bad one.*

A perfect knowledge of his country certainly is of great help to a huntſman: if your's, as yet, ſhould have it not, great allowance ought to be made. The trotting away with hounds to make a long and knowing caſt, is a privilege which a new huntſman cannot pretend to: an experienced one may ſafely ſay, a fox has made for ſuch a cover, when he has known, perhaps, that nine

* On windy days, or ſuch as are not likely to afford any ſcent for hounds, it is better, I think, to ſend them to be exerciſed on the turnpike road; it will do them leſs harm than hunting with them might do, and more good than if they were to remain confined in their kennel; for though nothing makes hounds ſo handy, as taking them out often; nothing inclines them ſo much to riot, as taking them out *to hunt* when there is little or no ſcent; and particularly on windy days, when they cannot hear one another.

out

out of ten, with the wind in the ſame quarter, have conſtantly gone thither.

In a country where there are large earths, a fox that knows the country, and tries any of them, ſeldom fails to try the reſt. A huntſman may take advantage of this; they are certain caſts, and may help him to get nearer to his fox.

Great caution is neceſſary when a fox runs into a village: if he be hallooed there, get forward as faſt as you can. Foxes, when tired, will lie down any where, and are often loſt by it.—A wide caſt is not the beſt to recover a tired fox with tired hounds;—they ſhould hunt him out, inch by inch, though they are ever ſo long about it; for the reaſon I have juſt given;—*that he will lie down any where.*

In chaces and foreſts, where high fences are made to preſerve the coppices, I like to ſee a huntſman put only a few hounds over, enough to carry on the ſcent, and get forward with the reſt, it is a proof that he knows his buſineſs.

A huntſman muſt take care, where foxes are in plenty, leſt he ſhould run the heel; for it frequently happens, that hounds can run the wrong way of the ſcent better than they can the right, when one is up the wind, and the other down.

Fox-

Fox-hunters, I think, are never guilty of the fault of trying up the wind, before they have tried down; I have known them loſe foxes rather than condeſcend to try up the wind at all.

When a huntſman hears a halloo, and has five or ſix couple of hounds along with him, the pack not running, let him get forward with thoſe which he has; when they are on the ſcent, the others will ſoon join them.

Let him lift his tail hounds, and get them forward *after the reſt*; it can do no hurt: but let him be cautious in lifting any hounds to get them forward *before the reſt*; it always is dangerous, and foxes are ſometimes loſt by it.

When a fox runs his foil in cover, if you ſuffer all your hounds to hunt on the line of him, they will foil the ground, and tire themſelves to little purpoſe. I have before told you, that your huntſman, at ſuch a time, may ſtop the tail hounds, and throw them in at head. I am almoſt inclined to ſay, it is the only time it ſhould be done.—Whilſt hounds run ſtrait, it cannot be of any uſe, for they will get on faſter with the ſcent, than they would without it.

When hounds are hunting a cold ſcent, and point towards a cover, let a whipper-in get forward

ward to the oppoſite ſide of it: ſhould the fox break before the hounds reach the cover, ſtop them, and get them nearer to him.

When a fox perſiſts in running in a ſtrong cover, lies down often behind the hounds, and they are ſlack in hunting him, let the huntſman get into the cover to them: it may make the fox break, it may keep him off his ſoil, or may prevent the hounds from giving him up.

It is not often that ſlow huntſmen kill many foxes; they are a check upon their hounds, which ſeldom kill a fox but with a high ſcent, when it is out of their power to prevent it. What avails it to be told which way the fox is gone, when he is ſo far before, that you cannot hunt him? A Newmarket boy, with a good underſtanding and a good voice, might be preferable, perhaps, to an indifferent and ſlack huntſman; he would preſs on his hounds, while the ſcent was good, and the foxes he killed he would kill handſomely.—— A perfect knowledge of the intricacies of hunting is chiefly of uſe to ſlow huntſmen and bad hounds; ſince they more often ſtand in need of it. Activity is the firſt requiſite in a huntſman to a pack of fox-hounds; a want of it no judgment can make amends for; while the moſt difficult of all his undertakings is the diſtinguiſhing betwixt different ſcents, and knowing, with any certainty,

certainty, the ſcent of his hunted fox. Much ſpeculation is here required ;—the length of time hounds remain at fault ;—difference of ground ;—change of weather ;—all theſe contribute to increaſe the difficulty ; and require a nicety of judgment, and a preciſion, much above the comprehenſion of moſt huntſmen.

When hounds are at fault, and cannot make it out of themſelves, let the firſt caſt be quick ; the ſcent is then good, nor are the hounds likely to go over it ; as the ſcent gets worſe, the caſt ſhould be ſlower, and be more cautiouſly made. This is an eſſential part of hunting, and which, I am ſorry to ſay, few huntſmen attend to. I wiſh they would remember the following rules, viz. that with a good ſcent, their caſt ſhould be *quick* ; with a bad ſcent, *ſlow* ;—and that, when their hounds are picking along a cold ſcent,—*they are not to caſt them at all.*

When hounds are at fault, and ſtaring about, truſting entirely to their eyes, and to their ears ; the making a caſt with them, I apprehend, would be to little purpoſe. The likelieſt place for them to find the ſcent, is where they left it ; and when the fault is evidently in the dog, a forward caſt is leaſt likely to recover the ſcent.*

* Hounds know where they left the ſcent, and if let alone will try to recover it. Impatience in the huntſman, at ſuch times, ſeldom fails, in the end, to ſpoil the hounds.

When hounds are making a regular caſt, trying for the ſcent as they go, ſuffer not your huntſman to ſay a word to them; it cannot do any good, and probably may make them go over the ſcent: nor ſhould you ſuffer either the voice or the whip of your whipper-in, to be now heard; his uſual roughneſs and ſeverity would ill ſuit the ſtillneſs and gentleneſs which are required at a time like this.

When hounds come to a check, a huntſman ſhould obſerve the tail hounds; they are leaſt likely to over-run the ſcent, and he may ſee by them how far they brought it: in moſt packs there are ſome hounds that will ſhew the point of the fox, and if attended to, will direct his caſt: when ſuch hounds follow ſlowly and unwillingly, he may be certain the reſt of the pack are running without a ſcent.

When he caſts his hounds, let him not caſt wide without reaſon; for of courſe it will take more time. Huntſmen, in general, keep too forward in their caſts; or, as a ſailor would ſay, keep too long *on one tack*. They ſhould endeavour to hit off the ſcent by croſſing the line of it.—*Two parallel lines, you know, can never meet.**

* By attending to this a huntſman cannot fail to make a good caſt, for if he obſerve the point of the fox, he may always croſs upon the ſcent of him.

When he goes to a halloo, let him be careful leſt his hounds run the heel, as much time is loſt by it. I once ſaw this miſtake made by a famous huntſman:—after we had left a cover, which we had been drawing, a diſturbed fox was ſeen to go into it; he was hallooed, and we returned. The huntſman, who never inquired *where* the fox was ſeen, or on *which ſide* the cover he entered, threw his hounds in at random; and, as it happened, on the oppoſite ſide: they immediately took the heel of him, broke cover, and hunted the ſcent back to his very kennel.

Different countries require different caſts: ſuch huntſmen as have been uſed to a woodland, and incloſed country, I have ſeen loſe time in an open country, where wide caſts are always neceſſary.

When you want to caſt round a flock of ſheep, the whipper-in ought to drive them the other way, leſt they ſhould keep running on before you.

A fox ſeldom goes over or under a *gate* when he can avoid it.

Huntſmen are frequently very conceited, and very obſtinate. Oftentimes have I ſeen them, when their hounds came to a check, turn directly back on ſeeing hounds at head which they had

no

no opinion of. They *ſuppoſed* the fox was gone another way; in which caſe Mr. Bayes's remark in the Rehearſal always occurs to me, "*that, if "he ſhould not, what then becomes of their ſuppoſe?*" Better, ſurely, would it be, to make a ſhort caſt forward firſt; they then might be *certain* the hounds were wrong, and of courſe could make their own caſt with greater confidence:—the advantage, next to that of knowing whither the fox *is* gone, is that of knowing, with certainty, whither he is *not*.

Moſt huntſmen like to have all their hounds turned after them, when they make a caſt: I wonder not at them for it, but I am always ſorry when I ſee it done; for, till I find a huntſman that is infallible, I ſhall continue to think the more my hounds ſpread, the better; as long as they are within ſight or hearing, it is ſufficient.—Many a time have I ſeen an obſtinate hound hit off the ſcent, when an obſtinate huntſman, by caſting the wrong way, has done all in his power to prevent it. Two foxes I remember to have ſeen killed, in one day, by ſkirting hounds, whilſt the huntſman was making his caſt the contrary way.

When hounds, running in cover, come into a road, and horſes are on before, let the huntſman hold them quickly on beyond where the horſes

have been, trying the oppoſite ſide as he goes along: ſhould the horſemen have been long enough there to have headed back the fox, let them then try back. Condemn me not for ſuffering hounds *to try back* when the fox *has been headed back*; I recommend it at no other time.

When your hounds divide into many parts, you had better go off with the firſt fox that breaks. The ground will ſoon get tainted, nor will hounds like a cover where they are often changing.

If a cover be very large, and you have many ſcents, be not in a hurry to get your hounds together;—if your pack be numerous, let them run ſeparate, only taking care that none get away entirely from the reſt; by this means many foxes will be equally diſtreſt, the hounds will get together at laſt, and one fox, at the leaſt, you may expect to kill.

The heading a fox back at firſt, if the cover be not a large one, is oftentimes of ſervice to hounds, as he will not ſtop, and cannot go off unſeen.—When a fox has been hard run, I have known it turn out otherwiſe; and hounds, that would eaſily have killed him out of the cover, have left him in it.

If

If it be not your intention that a fox ſhould break, you ſhould prevent him, I think, as much as you can from coming at all out of the cover; for though you ſhould head him back afterwards, it moſt probably would put the hounds to a fault: when a pack of fox-hounds once leave a cover after their game, they do not readily return to it again.

When a fox has been often headed back on one ſide of a cover, and a huntſman knows there is not any body on the other ſide to halloo him, the firſt fault his hounds come to, let him caſt that way, leſt the fox ſhould be gone off; and if he be ſtill in the cover, he may ſtill recover him.

Suffer not your huntſman to take out a lame hound. If any be tender-footed, he will tell you, perhaps, that they will not mind it when they are out;—probably they may not; but how will they be on the next day? A hound, not in condition to run, cannot be of much ſervice to the pack; and the taking him out at that time may occaſion him a long confinement afterwards:—put it not to the trial. Should any fall lame while they are out, leave them at the firſt houſe that you come to.

I have ſeen huntſmen hunt their young hounds in couples. Let me beg of you not to ſuffer it. I know you would be ſorry to ſee your hounds hanging acroſs a hedge, grinning at each other, perhaps in the very agonies of death: yet it is an accident that often has happened; and it is an accident ſo likely to happen, that I am ſurpriſed any man of common ſenſe will run the riſk of it. If neceſſary, I had much rather they ſhould be held in couples at the cover ſide, till the fox be found.

The two principal things which a huntſman has to attend to, are the keeping of his hounds *healthy* and *ſteady*. The firſt is attained by cleanlineſs and proper food; the latter, by putting, as ſeldom as poſſible, any unſteady ones amongſt them.

At the beginning of the ſeaſon let him be attentive to get his hounds well in blood. As the ſeaſon advances, and foxes become ſtout, attention then ſhould be had to keep them as vigorous as poſſible.—It is a great fault when hounds are ſuffered to become too high in fleſh at the beginning of the ſeaſon, or too low afterwards.

When a fox is loſt, the huntſman on his return home ſhould examine into his *own conduct*, and endeavour to find in what he might have done better;

ter; he may by this means make the very loſs of a fox of uſe to him.

Old tyeing hounds, and a hare-hunter turned fox-hunter, are both as contrary to the true ſpirit of fox-hunting, as any thing can poſſibly be.—One is continually bringing the pack back again; the other as conſtantly does his beſt to prevent them from getting forward. The natural prejudices of mankind are ſuch, that a man ſeldom alters his ſtyle of hunting, let him purſue what game he may; beſides, it may be conſtitutional, as he is himſelf ſlow or active, dull or lively, patient or impatient; it is for that reaſon I object to a hare-hunter for a pack of fox-hounds; for the ſame ideas of hunting will moſt probably ſtick by him as long as he lives.

Your huntſman is an old man; ſhould he have been working hard all his life on wrong principles, he may be now incorrigible.

Sometimes you will meet with a good kennel huntſman, ſometimes an active and judicious one in the field; ſome are clever at finding a fox, others are better after he is found; whilſt perfection in a huntſman, like perfection in any thing elſe, is ſcarcely ever to be met with: there are not only good, bad, and indifferent huntſmen, but there are perhaps a few others, who being as

it were of a different ſpecies, ſhould be claſſed apart;—I mean, ſuch as have *real genius*. It is this peculiar excellence, which I told you in a former letter, I would rather wiſh my firſt whipper-in to be poſſeſſed of than my huntſman; and one reaſon among others, is, that he, I think, would have more opportunities of exerciſing it.

The keeping hounds clean and healthy, and bringing them into the field in their fulleſt vigour, is the excellence of a good kennel huntſman:* if, beſides this, he makes his hounds both love and fear him; if he be active, and preſs them on, whilſt the ſcent is good, always aiming to keep as near to the fox as he can; if, when his hounds are at fault, he make his caſt with judgment, not caſting the wrong way firſt, and only blundering upon the right at laſt as many do; if, added

* To make the moſt of a pack of hounds, and bring them into the field in their fulleſt vigour, is an excellence that huntſmen are very deficient in.—To obtain a knowledge of the different conſtitutions of ſo many animals, requires more diſcernment than moſt huntſmen are endowed with.—To apply that knowledge, by making ſeparate drafts when they feed them, would alſo take up more time than they chooſe to beſtow; hence it is, that they generally are fed all together:—they may be well fed, but I much doubt if they are ever made the moſt of—ſuch as require to be fed *a little at a time*, and *often* muſt, I believe, be contented with *a little only*.—Few huntſmen ſeem fond of their hounds;—one reaſon of it, perhaps, may be, that they are paid for looking after them.

to this, he be patient and perſevering, never giving up a fox, whilſt there remains a chance of killing him, he then is a perfect huntſman.

Did I not know your love of this diverſion, I ſhould think, by this time, that I muſt have tired you completely. You are not particular, however, in your partiality to it; for to ſhew you the effect which fox-hunting has on thoſe who are really fond of it, I muſt tell you what happened to me not long ago.——My hounds, in running a fox, croſſed the great weſtern road, where I met a gentleman travelling on horſeback, his ſervant, with a portmanteau, following him. He no ſooner ſaw the hounds than he rode up to me, with the greateſt eagerneſs, "*Sir*," ſaid he, "*are you after a fox?*"—When I told him, we were, he immediately ſtuck ſpurs to his horſe, took a monſtrous leap, and never quitted us any more, till the fox was killed.—I ſuppoſe, had I ſaid, we were after a *hare*, my gentleman would have purſued his journey.

LETTER XXI.

YOUR huntſman, you ſay, has hunted a pack of harriers. It might have been better, perhaps, had he never ſeen one, ſince fox-hunting and hare-hunting differ almoſt in every particular; ſo much, that I think it might not be an improper negative definition of fox-hunting to ſay it is of *all* hunting, *that* which reſembles hare-hunting the leaſt. A good huntſman to a pack of harriers ſeldom ſucceeds in fox-hunting; like old hounds they dwell upon the ſcent, and cannot get forward; nor do they ever make a bold caſt, ſo much are they afraid of leaving the ſcent behind them. Hence it is that they poke about and try the ſame place ten times over rather than they will leave it; and when they do, are totally at a loſs which way to go, for want of knowing the nature of the animal they are in purſuit of. As hare-hounds ſhould ſcarcely ever be caſt, hallooed, or taken off their noſes, hare-hunters are too apt to hunt their fox-hounds in the ſame manner; but it will not do, nor could it pleaſe you if it would. Take away the ſpirit of fox-hunting, and it is no longer fox-hunting; it is ſtale ſmall beer compared to briſk champain. You would alſo find in it more fatigue

fatigue than pleaſure. It is ſaid, *there is a pleaſure in being mad which only madmen know*; and it is the enthuſiaſm, I believe, of fox-hunting which is its beſt ſupport; ſtrip it of that, and you had better leave it quite alone.

The hounds themſelves alſo differ in their manner of hunting: the beagle, who has always his noſe to the ground, will puzzle an hour on one ſpot ſooner than he will leave the ſcent; while the fox-hound, full of life and ſpirit, is always daſhing and trying forward. A high-bred fox-hound, therefore, ſhews himſelf to moſt advantage when foxes are at their ſtrongeſt and run an end. A pack of harriers will kill *a cub* better, perhaps, than a pack of fox-hounds; but when foxes are ſtrong, they have not the method of getting on with the ſcent which fox-hounds have, and generally tire themſelves before the fox. To kill foxes when they are ſtrong, hounds muſt run as well as hunt; beſides, catching a fox by hard running is always preferred in the opinion of a fox-hunter. Much depends, in my opinion, on the ſtyle in which it is done; and I think, without being ſophiſtical, a diſtinction might be made betwixt hunting a fox and fox-hunting. Two hackneys become not racers by running round a courſe, nor does the mere hunting of a fox change the nature of the harrier. I have alſo ſeen a hare hunted by high-bred fox-hounds; yet, I confeſs

to

to you, it gave me not the leaſt idea of what hare-hunting ought to be. Certain ideas are neceſſarily annexed to certain words; this is the uſe of language; and when a fox-hound is mentioned, I ſhould expect not only a particular kind of hound, as to make, ſize, and ſtrength, by which the fox-hound is eaſy to be diſtinguiſhed: but I ſhould alſo expect by fox-hunting, a lively, animated, and eager purſuit, as the very eſſence of it.* Eagerneſs and impetuoſity are ſuch eſſential parts of this diverſion, that I am never more ſurpriſed than when I ſee a fox-hunter without them. One *hold hard*, or reproof *unneceſſarily* given, would chill me more than a north-eaſt wind; it would damp my ſpirits and ſend me home. The enthuſiaſm of a fox-hunter ſhould not be checked in its career, for it is the very life and ſoul of fox-hunting. If it be the eagerneſs with which you purſue your game that makes the chief pleaſure of the chace, fox-hunting ſurely ſhould afford the greateſt degree of it, ſince you purſue no animal with the ſame eagerneſs that you purſue a fox.

* The ſix following lines may have a dangerous tendency. Only a good ſportſman can know when a reproof is given *unneceſſarily*, and only a bad one will be deſerving of reproof. This paſſage, therefore, ſhould be compared with pages 149, 187, 189, 204, where the meaning of the author is very clearly expreſſed.

Knowing

Knowing your partiality to hounds that run in a good ſtyle, I adviſe you to obſerve ſtrictly your own when a fox is ſinking in a ſtrong cover; *that* is the time to ſee the true ſpirit of a fox-hound. If they ſpread not the cover, but run tamely on the line of one another, I ſhall fear it is a ſort that will not pleaſe you long. A fox-hound that has not ſpirit and ambition to get forward at a time like this, is at no other likely to do much good.

You talked in your laſt letter of pretty hounds; certainly I ſhould not pretend to criticiſe others, who am ſo incorrect myſelf; yet, with your leave, I think I can ſet you right in that particular.—Pretty is an epithet improperly applied to a fox-hound: we call a fox-hound handſome when he is ſtrong, bony, of a proper ſize, and of exact ſymmetry; and fitneſs is made eſſential to beauty. A beagle may be pretty, but, according to my idea of the word, a fox-hound cannot: but as it is not to be ſuppoſed that you will keep a pack of fox-hounds for the pleaſure of looking at them, without doubt you will think goodneſs more neceſſary than beauty. Should you be ambitious to have a handſome pack of hounds, on no account ought you to enter an ugly dog, leſt you be tempted to keep him afterwards.

I once

I once heard an old ſportſman ſay, that he thought a fox, to ſhew ſport, ſhould run four hours at leaſt; and, I ſuppoſe, he did not care how ſlow his hounds went after him. This idea, however, is not conceived in the true ſpirit of fox-hunting, which is not to walk down a fox, or ſtarve him to death, but to keep cloſe at him, and kill him as ſoon as you can. I am convinced a fox-hound may hunt too much; if tender-noſed, and not over-hurried, he will always hunt enough; whilſt the higheſt-bred hounds may be made to tye upon the ſcent by improper management.*

It is youth and good ſpirits which beſt ſuit with fox-hunting; ſlackneſs in the men occaſions ſlackneſs in the hounds; and one may ſee by the manner in which hounds hunt what kind of men they have been accuſtomed to. The ſpeedieſt hounds may, by degrees, be rendered ſlow; and it is impoſſible for the beſt to do their buſineſs as they ought unleſs followed with life and ſpirit. Men who are ſlack themſelves will be always afraid of hurrying their hounds too much; and by carrying this humour too far, will commit a fault which has nothing to excuſe it. The beſt method to hunt a fox, they ſay, is never upon

* It more frequently is owing, either to want of patience, or want of mettle, than to want of noſe, that a hound does not hunt well.

any

any account to caſt the hounds; but, on the contrary, to let them tye upon the ſcent as long as they will, and that they will hit it off at laſt. I agree with them partly;—it certainly muſt be the beſt method *to hunt a fox*, for by this means you may hunt him from morning till night; and, if you have the luck to find him, may hunt him again the next day—the likelieſt method, however, to kill him, is to take every advantage of him that you can.

All hounds go faſt enough with a good ſcent; but it is the particular excellence of a fox-hound, when rightly managed, to get on faſter with an indifferent ſcent than any other hound:* it is the buſineſs of a huntſman to encourage this; *and here, moſt probably, the hare-hunter will fail.* He has been uſed to take his time; he has enjoyed a cold ſcent like a ſouthern hound; and has ſitten patiently upon his horſe to ſee his hounds hunt. It is, to be ſure, very pretty to ſee; and when you conſider that the hare is all the time, perhaps, within a few yards of you, and may leap up the next minute, you are perfectly contented with what you are about; but it is not ſo in fox-hunting: every minute that you loſe is precious, and increaſes your difficulties; and while you

* It is a quick method of hunting that I moſtly value in any hound; ſuch as are poſſeſſed of it are ſeldom long off the ſcent; it is the reverſe of ſlackneſs.

are ſtanding ſtill the fox is running miles. It is a ſatisfaction to a hare-hunter to be told where his game was ſeen, though a long while before; but it is melancholy news to a fox-hunter, whoſe game is not likely to ſtop. I believe I mentioned to you, in a former letter on hare hunting, a great fault which I had obſerved in ſome harriers from being let too much alone—that of *running back the heel.*—I have ſeen a pack of high-bred fox-hounds do the ſame, for the ſame reaſons.

When hounds flag from frequent changes, and a long day, it is neceſſary for a huntſman to animate them as much as he can; he muſt keep them forward and preſs them on, for it is not likely, in this caſe, that they ſhould over-run the ſcent; at theſe times the whole work is generally done by a few hounds, and he ſhould keep cloſe to them: *here I alſo fear that the hare-hunter will fail:** if they come to a long fault it is over, and you had better then go home.

The

* It is at a time like this that good ſportſmen may be of great ſervice to hounds; it is the only time that they want encouragement, and it is (I am ſorry to ſay) almoſt the only time that they do not receive it. Thoſe who ride too forward in the morning will in the evening, perhaps, be too far behind, and thereby loſe an opportunity that is offered them of making ſome amends for the miſchiefs they have already done. When hounds flag from frequent changes, and the huntſman's horſe ſinks under the fatigue of a tireſome day, then it is that ſportſmen may aſſiſt

The many chances that are againſt you in fox-hunting; the changing frequently; the heading of the foxes; their being courſed by ſheep-dogs; long faults; cold hunting; and the dying away of the ſcent; make it neceſſary to keep always as near to the fox as you can; which ſhould be the firſt and invariable principle of fox-hunting. Long days do great hurt to a pack of fox-hounds. I ſat out one day laſt winter from the kennel at half paſt ſeven, and returned home a quarter before eight at night, the hounds running hard the greateſt part of the time. The huntſman killed one horſe, and tired another, and the hounds did not recover for more than a week: we took them off at laſt when they were running with a better ſcent than they had had the whole day.*—I alſo remember, after it was dark, to have heard a better view halloo from *an owl*, than I ever heard from a ſportſman in my life, though I hope that I ſhall never hear ſuch another. A long

aſſiſt them; ſuch as know the hounds ſhould then ride up to them; they ſhould endeavour, by great encouragement, to keep them *running*, and get thoſe forward that may be behind; for when hounds that are tired once come to *hunting*, they tie upon the ſcent, and by loſing time loſe every chance they had of killing the fox—great encouragement, and proper and timely aſſiſtance only can prevent it.

* Hounds, after every hard day, ſhould have two clear days to reſt; it does them leſs hurt to hunt two days following when their work is eaſy, than to hunt before they may be perfectly recovered after having been hard run.

day, nevertheleſs, *once* or *twice* in a ſeaſon, is of uſe to a huntſman; it ſhews the real goodneſs and ſtoutneſs of his hounds.

When long days happen to hounds that are low in fleſh, nothing will get them up again ſo effectually as reſt; it is for this reaſon hounds that are kept conſtantly hunted ought always to be, as ſportſmen call it, *above their work*. If your hounds, either from accident or inattention, ſhould ever be in the low condition here alluded to, be not impatient to get them out of it; ſhould you feed them high with *fleſh*, the mange, moſt probably, would be the immediate conſequence of it: it is reſt and wholeſome meat that will recover them beſt. It will ſurpriſe you to ſee how ſoon a dog becomes either fat or lean; a little patience, therefore, and ſome attention, will always enable you to get your hounds into proper condition; and I am certain, that you can receive no pleaſure in hunting with them, if they be not.

I forgot, in my letter upon the feeding of hounds, to obſerve that ſuch hounds as have the mange actually upon them, or only a tendency towards it, ſhould be fed ſeparately from the reſt. They ſhould have no fleſh; their meat ſhould be mixed up rather thin than thick; and they ſhould have

have vegetables in great plenty.* I muſt alſo add, that if my hounds return from hunting earlier than they were expected, I now order them to be ſhut up in the lodging room till their meat be made ready for them. Hounds never reſt contented till they have been fed; nor will they remain upon their benches unleſs they be confined; yet, without doubt, lying upon the pavement, or even ſtanding out in the cold, after violent exerciſe, muſt be prejudicial to them.

I am glad to hear that your huntſman knows the country which he is to hunt; nothing in fox-hunting is more eſſential than *that*; and it may make amends for many faults. Foxes are not capricious, they know very well what they are about; are quick, I believe, at determining, and reſolute in perſevering: they generally have a point to go to, and, though headed and turned directly from it, ſeldom fail to make it good at laſt; *this*, therefore, is a great help to an obſerving huntſman.

Suffer not your huntſman to encourage his hounds too much on a bad ſcenting day, particularly in covers where there is much riot. *Hark, Hark, Hark,* which injudicious huntſmen are ſo fond of

* Sulphur made into a ball with butter, or hog's lard, and given two or three mornings following, may alſo be neceſſary.

upon every occaſion, muſt often do miſchief, and cannot do good; whilſt hounds are near together, they will get ſooner to the hound that challenges without that noiſe than with it: if it be a right ſcent, they will be ready enough to join; and if it be a wrong one, provided they be let alone, they will ſoon leave it. Injudicious encouragement, on a bad day, might make them run ſomething or other, right or wrong.

I know of no fault ſo bad in a hound as that of running falſe; it ſhould never be forgiven: ſuch as are not ſtout, or are ſtiff noſed, or have other faults, may at times do good, and at their worſt may do no harm; but ſuch as run falſe moſt probably will ſpoil your ſport. A hound capable of ſpoiling one day's ſport is ſcarcely worth your keeping. Indifferent ones, ſuch as I have above deſcribed, may be kept till you have better to ſupply their places.

A huntſman ſhould know how to marſhal every hound in his pack, giving to each his proper rank and precedence; for, without this knowledge, it is not poſſible he ſhould make a large draft as he ought. There are, in moſt packs, ſome hounds that aſſiſt but little in killing the fox, and it is the judicious drafting off of ſuch hounds that is a certain ſign of a good huntſman.

My huntſman is very exact; he carries always a liſt of his hounds in his pocket, and when in a diſtant country, he looks it over to ſee if any of them be miſſing. He has alſo a book, in which he keeps a regular account where every fox is found, and where he is killed.

Your huntſman, you ſay, knows perfectly the country he has to hunt; let him then acquire as perfect a knowledge of his hounds: good ſenſe and obſervation will do the reſt, at leaſt will do as much as you ſeem to require of him; for I am glad to find that you had rather depend upon the goodneſs of your hounds for ſport than the genius of your huntſman. It is, I believe, a much ſurer dependance.

LETTER XXII.

ARE not your expectations ſomewhat too ſanguine, when you think that you ſhall have no occaſion for bag-foxes to keep your hounds in blood the firſt ſeaſon? It may be as well, perhaps, not to turn them all out till you can be more certain that your young pack will keep good and ſteady without them. When blood is much wanted, and they are tired with a hard day, one of theſe foxes will put them into ſpirits, and give them, as it were, new ſtrength and vigour.

You deſire to know what I call *being out of blood?* In anſwer to which, I muſt tell you, that, in my judgment, no fox-hound can fail of killing more than three or four times following, without being viſibly the worſe for it. When hounds are out of blood, there is a kind of evil genius attending all they do; and though they may ſeem to hunt as well as ever, they do not get forward; whilſt a pack of fox-hounds, well in blood, like troops flushed with conqueſt, are not eaſily withſtood. What we call ill luck, day after day, when hounds kill no foxes, may frequently, I think, be traced to another cauſe,

namely, *their being out of blood*; nor can there be any other reaſon aſſigned why hounds, which we know to be good, ſhould remain ſo long as they ſometimes do without killing a fox.* Large packs are leaſt ſubject to this inconvenience: hounds that are quite freſh, and in high ſpirits, leaſt feel the want of blood. The ſmalleſt packs therefore ſhould be able to leave at leaſt ten or twelve couple of hounds behind them, to be freſh againſt the next hunting day. If your hounds be much out of blood, give them reſt: take this opportunity to hunt with other hounds, to ſee how they are managed, to obſerve what ſtallion hounds they have, and to judge yourſelf, whether they be ſuch as it is fit for you to breed from. If what I have now recommended ſhould not ſucceed, if a little reſt and a fine morning do not put your hounds into blood again, I know of nothing elſe that will; and you muſt attribute your ill ſucceſs, I fear, to another cauſe.

You ſay, you generally hunt at a late hour: after a tolerably good run, try not to find another fox. Should you be long in finding, and ſhould you not have ſucceſs afterwards, it will hurt your hounds: ſhould you try a long time, and

* A pack of hounds that had been a month without killing a fox, at laſt ran one to ground, which they dug, and killed upon the earth: the next ſeven days they hunted they killed a fox each day.

not find, *that* alſo will make them ſlack. Never try to find a fox after one o'clock; you had better return home, and hunt again on the next day. Not that I, in general, approve of hunting two days following with the ſame hounds: the trying ſo many hours in vain, and the being kept ſo long off their food, both contribute to make them ſlack, and nothing ſurely is more contrary to the true ſpirit of fox-hunting; for fox-hounds, I have already ſaid, ought always to be above their work. This is another particular, in which hare-hunting and fox-hunting totally differ; for harriers cannot be hunted too much, as long as they are able to hunt at all. The ſlower they go, the leſs likely they will be to over-run the ſcent, and the ſooner, in all probability, will they kill their game. I have a friend, who hunted his five days following, and aſſured me, that he had better ſport with them the laſt day than the firſt.

I remember to have heard that a certain pack of fox-hounds, ſince become famous, were many weeks, from a mixture of indifferent hounds, bad management, and worſe luck, without killing a fox. However, they killed one at laſt, and tried to find another. They found him—and they loſt him—and were then, as you may well ſuppoſe, a month without killing another fox.

This

This was ill judged; they ſhould have returned home immediately.

When hounds are much out of blood, ſome men proceed in a method that muſt neceſſarily keep them ſo: they hunt them every day; as if tiring them out were a means to give them ſtrength and ſpirit: this, however, proceeds more from ill-nature and reſentment than ſound judgment.* As I know your temper to be the reverſe, without doubt you will adopt a different method; and, ſhould your hounds ever be in the ſtate here deſcribed, you will keep them freſh for the firſt fine day; when, ſuppoſing them to be all perfectly ſteady, I do not queſtion that they will kill their fox.

When hounds are in want of blood, give them every advantage: go out early; chooſe a good quiet morning; and throw off your hounds where they are likely to find, and are leaſt likely to change: if it be a ſmall cover, or furze-brake, and you can keep the fox in, it is right to do it; for the ſooner that you kill him, when you are in want of blood, the better for the hounds.

* It is not the want of blood only that is prejudicial to hounds, the trying long in vain to recover a loſt ſcent no leſs contributes to make them ſlack.

When

When hounds are in want of blood, and you get a fox into a ſmall cover, it muſt be your own fault, if you do not kill him there: place your people properly, and he cannot get off again. You will hear, perhaps, that it is impoſſible to head back a fox. No animal is ſo ſhy, conſequently, no animal is ſo eaſily headed back by thoſe who underſtand it. When it is your intention to check a fox, your people muſt keep at a little diſtance from the cover ſide, nor ſhould they be ſparing of their voices; for, ſince you cannot keep him in, if he be determined to come out, prevent him, if you can, from being ſo inclined. All kind of mobbing is allowable, when hounds are out of blood;* and you may keep the fox in cover, or let him out, as you think the hounds will manage him beſt.

Though I am ſo great an advocate for blood as to judge it neceſſary to a pack of fox-hounds, yet I by no means approve of it, ſo far as it is ſometimes carried. I have known three young foxes chopped in a furze-brake in one day, without any ſport; a wanton deſtruction of foxes ſcarcely anſwering the purpoſe of blood, ſince that blood does hounds moſt good which is moſt dearly earned. Such ſportſmen richly deſerve

* Yet how many foxes owe their lives to the too great eagerneſs of their purſuers.

blank

blank days; and, without doubt, they often meet with them. Mobbing a fox, indeed, is only allowable when hounds are not likely to be a match for him without it. One would almoſt be inclined to think blood as neceſſary to the men as to the hounds, ſince the beſt chace is flat, unleſs you kill the fox. When you aſk a fox-hunter what ſport he has had, and he replies, it was *good*, I think the next queſtion generally is, *Did your hounds kill?* If he ſhould ſay they did *not*, the converſation ends; but if, on the contrary, he tell you that they did, you then aſk a hundred queſtions, and ſeldom are ſatisfied, till he has related every particular of the chace.

When there is ſnow on the ground, foxes will lie at earth.* Should your hounds be in want of blood, it will at that time be eaſy to dig one to turn out before them, when the weather breaks; but I ſeem to have forgotten a new doctrine which I lately heard, that blood is not neceſſary to a pack of fox-hounds. If *you* alſo ſhould have taken up that opinion, I have only to wiſh, that the goodneſs of your hounds may prevent

* Earths ſhould be watched when there is ſnow upon the ground, for foxes then will lie at earth. Thoſe who are inclined to deſtroy them can track them in, and may dig them out.

you

you from changing it, or from knowing how far it may be erroneous.*

Before you have been long a fox-hunter, I expect to hear you talk of the ill luck which ſo frequently attends this diverſion. I can aſſure you it has provoked me often, and has made *even a parſon ſwear*. It was but the other day we experienced an extraordinary inſtance of it. We found, at the ſame inſtant, a brace of foxes in the ſame cover, and they both broke at the oppoſite ends of it; the hounds ſoon got together, and went off very well with one of them; yet, notwithſtanding this, ſuch was our ill luck, that, though the hunted fox took a circle of ſeveral miles, he, at laſt, croſſed the line of the other fox, the heel of which we hunted back to the cover from whence we came: it is true, we perceived that our ſcent worſted, and were going to ſtop the hounds; but the going off of a white froſt deceived us alſo in that.

Many a fox have I known loſt, by running into houſes and ſtables. It is not long ſince my hounds loſt one, when hunting in the New Fo-

* Thoſe who can ſuppoſe the killing of a fox to be of no ſervice to a pack of fox-hounds, may ſuppoſe, perhaps, that it does them hurt. It is going but one ſtep further.

reſt:

reſt: after having tried the country round, they had given him up, and were gotten home; when in rode a farmer, full gallop, with news of the fox: he had found him, he ſaid, in his ſtable, and had ſhut him in. The hounds returned; the fox, however, ſtood but a little while, as he was quite *run up* before.

Some years ago, my hounds running a fox acroſs an open country, in a thick fog, the fox ſcarcely out of view, three of the leading hounds diſappeared all of a ſudden, and the whipper-in, luckily, was near enough to ſee it happen. They fell into a dry well, near an hundred feet deep: they and the fox remained there together till the next day; when, with the greateſt difficulty, we got them all four out.

Another time, having run a fox a burſt of an hour and quarter, the ſevereſt I ever remember, the hounds, at laſt, got up to him by the ſide of a river, where he had ſtaid for them. One hound ſeized him as he was ſwimming acroſs, and they both went down together. The hound came up again, but the fox appeared no more. By means of a boat and a long pole we got the fox out. Had he not been ſeen to ſink, he would hardly have been tried for *under water*, and, without doubt, we ſhould have wondered what had become of him.

Now

Now we are in the chapter of accidents, I muſt mention another, that lately happened to me on croſſing a river, to draw a cover on the other ſide of it. The river Stower frequently overflows its banks, and is alſo very rapid and very dangerous. The flood that morning, tho' ſudden, was extenſive. The neighbouring meadows were all laid under water, and only the tops of the hedges appeared. There were poſts to direct us to the bridge, but we had a great length of water to paſs before we could get at it; it was, beſides, ſo deep that our horſes almoſt ſwam, and the ſhorteſt legged horſes and longeſt legged riders were worſt off. The hounds daſhed in as uſual, and were immediately carried by the rapidity of the current, a long way down the ſtream. The huntſman was far behind them; and as he could advance but ſlowly, he was conſtrained to ſee his hounds wear themſelves out in an uſeleſs contention with the current, from their efforts to get to him. It was a ſhocking ſcene! many of the hounds, when they reached the ſhore, had entirely loſt the uſe of their limbs, for it froze and the cold was intolerable. Some lay as if they were dead, and others reeled, as if they had been drinking wine. Our ill luck was not yet complete; the weakeſt hounds, or ſuch as were moſt affected by the cold, we now ſaw entangled in the tops of the hedges, and heard their lamentations. Well-known tongues! and ſuch as I had

had never before heard without pleaſure. It was painful to ſee their diſtreſs, and not know how to relieve it. A number of people, by this time, were aſſembled near the river ſide, but there was not one amongſt them that would venture in. However, a guinea, at laſt, tempted one man to fetch out a hound that was entangled in a buſh, and would otherwiſe have periſhed. Two hounds remained upon a hedge all night, and though at a conſiderable diſtance from each other when we left them, yet they got together afterwards, and the next morning, when the flood abated, they were found cloſely claſping each other: without doubt, it was the friendly warmth they afforded each other that kept both alive. We loſt but one hound by this unlucky expedition, but could not ſave any of our terriers. They were ſeen to ſink, their ſtrength not being ſufficient to reſiſt the two enemies they had to encounter, powerful, when combined—the ſeverity of the cold, and the rapidity of the ſtream.

You aſk, at what time you ſhould leave off hunting? It is a queſtion which I know not how to anſwer, as it depends as much on the quantity of game that you have, as on the country that you hunt. However, in my opinion, no good country ſhould be hunted after February; nor ſhould there be any hunting at all after March. Spring hunting is ſad deſtruction of foxes:

foxes: in one week you may deſtroy as many as would have ſhewn you ſport for a whole ſeaſon. We killed a bitch-fox one morning, with ſeven young ones, which were all alive: I can aſſure you we miſſed them very much the next year, and had many blank days, which we needed not to have had, but through our own fault. I ſhould tell you, this notable feat was performed, *literally*, on the *firſt of April*. If you will hunt late in the ſeaſon, you ſhould, at leaſt, leave your terriers behind you. I hate to kill any animal out of ſeaſon. A hen-pheaſant, with egg, I have heard, is famous eating; yet I can aſſure you I never mean to taſte it; and the hunting a bitch-fox, big with young, appears to me cruel and unnatural. A gentleman of my acquaintance, who killed moſt of his foxes at this ſeaſon, was humorouſly called, *midwife to the foxes*.

Are not the foxes heads, which are ſo pompouſly expoſed to view, often prejudicial to ſport in fox-hunting? How many foxes are wantonly deſtroyed, without the leaſt ſervice to the hounds or ſport to the maſter, that the huntſman may ſay he has killed ſo many brace! How many are digged out and killed, when blood is not wanted, for no better reaſon!—foxes that another day, perhaps, the earths well ſtopped, might have run hours, and died gallantly at laſt. I remember myſelf to have ſeen a pack of hounds kill three in

in one day; and though the laſt ran to ground, and the hounds had killed two before, therefore could not be ſuppoſed to be in want of blood, the fox was digged out and killed upon the earth. However, it anſwered one purpoſe you would little expect—it put a clergyman preſent in mind that he had *a corpſe to bury*, which otherwiſe had been forgotten.

I ſhould have leſs objection to the number of foxes heads that are to be ſeen againſt every kennel door, did it aſcertain with more preciſion the goodneſs of the hounds; which may more juſtly be known from the few foxes they loſe than from the number that they kill. When you inquire after a pack of fox-hounds, whether they be good or not, and are told they ſeldom miſs a fox, your mind is perfectly ſatisfied about them, and you inquire no farther: it is not always ſo, when you are told the number of foxes they have killed. If you aſk a Frenchman what age he is of, he will tell you that he is *in good health.*—In like manner, when I am aſked how many brace of foxes my hounds have killed, I feel myſelf inclined to ſay the hounds *are good*; an anſwer which, in my opinion, goes more immediately to the ſpirit of the queſtion than any other that I could give; ſince the number of foxes heads is, at beſt, but a preſumptive proof of the goodneſs of the hounds. In a country neighbouring to

mine foxes are difficult to be killed, and not eaſy to be found; and the gentlemen who hunt that country are very well contented when they kill a dozen brace of foxes in a ſeaſon. My hounds kill double that number; ought it to be inferred from thence that they are twice as good?

All countries are not equally favourable to hounds: I hunt in three, all as different as it is poſſible to be; and the ſame hounds that behave well in one, ſometimes appear to behave indifferently in another. Were the moſt famous pack, therefore, to change their good country for the bad one I here allude to, though, without doubt, they would behave well, they certainly would meet with leſs ſucceſs than they are at preſent uſed to: our cold flinty hills would ſoon convince them, that the difference of ſtrength between one fox and another—the difference of goodneſs betwixt one hound and another—are yet but trifles, when compared with the more material difference of a good ſcenting country and a bad one.*

I can

* Great inequality of ſcent is very unfavourable to hounds. In heathy countries the ſcent always lies, yet I have remarked that the many roads that croſs them, and the many incloſures of poor land that ſurround them, render hunting in ſuch countries at times very difficult to hounds; the ſudden change from a good ſcent to a bad one puzzles their noſes and confuſes their under-

I can hardly think you ſerious when you aſk me, if the ſame hounds can hunt both hare and fox; however, thus far you may aſſure yourſelf, that it cannot be done with any degree of conſiſtency. As to your other queſtion of hunting the hounds yourſelf, *that* is an undertaking which, if you will follow my advice, you will let alone. It is your opinion, I find, that a gentleman might make the beſt huntſman; I have no doubt that he would, if he choſe the trouble of it. I do not think there is any profeſſion, trade, or occupation, to which a good education would not be of ſervice; and hunting, notwithſtanding it is at preſent exerciſed by ſuch as have not had an education, might, without doubt, be carried on much better by thoſe that have. I will venture to ſay, fewer faults would then be committed; nor would the ſame faults be committed over and over again as they now are. Huntſmen never reaſon by analogy, nor are they much benefited by experience.

Having told you, in a former letter, what a huntſman ought to be, the following, which I can aſſure you is a true copy, will ſhew you, in ſome inſtances at leaſt, what he ought not to be.

underſtandings; and many of them, without doubt, follow the ſcent unwillingly, owing to the little credit that they give to it. In my opinion, therefore, a ſcent which is leſs good, but more equal, is more favourable to hounds.

SIR,

YOUR's I received the 24th of this preſent Inſtant June and at your requeſt I will give you an impartial account of my man John G——'s Character. He is a Shoemaker or Cordwainer which you pleaſe to call it by trade and now in our Town he is following the Carding Buſineſs for every one that wants him he ſerved his Time at a Town called Brigſtock in Northamptonſhire and from thence in great Addington Journeyman to this Occupation as before mentioned and uſed to come to my houſe and found by riding my horſes to water that he rode a horſe pretty well which was not at all miſtaken for he rides a horſe well and he looks after a kennel of hounds very well and finds a hare very well he hath no judgment in hunting a pack of hounds now tho he rides well he dont with diſcretion for he dont know how to make the moſt of a horſe but a very harey ſtarey fellow will ride over a church if in his way tho may prevent the leap by having a gap within ten yards of him and if you are not in the field with him yourſelf when you are a hunting to tutor him about riding he will kill all the horſes you have in the ſtable in one month for he hath killed downright and lamed ſo that will never be fit for uſe no more than five horſes ſince he hath hunted my hounds which is two years and upwards he can talk no dog language to a hound he hath no voice he ſpeaks to a hound juſt as if his

his head were in a drum nor neither does he know how to draw a hound when they are at a loſs no more than a child of two years old as to his honeſty I always found him honeſt till about a week ago and have found him diſhoneſt now for about a week ago I ſent my ſervant that I have now to fetch ſome ſheep's feet from Mr. Stanjan of Higham Ferrers where G—— uſed to go for feet and I always ſend my money by my man that brings the feet and Stanjan told my man that I have now that I owed him money for feet and when the boy came home he told me and I went to Stanjan and when I found the truth of the matter G—— had kept my money in his hands and had never paid Stanjan he had been along with me once for a letter in order for his character to give him one but I told him I could not give him a good one ſo I would not write at all G—— is a very great drunkard cant keep a penny in his pocket a ſad notorious lyar if you ſend him upon an errand a mile or two from Uppingham he will get drunk ſtay all day and never come home while the middle of the night or ſuch time as he knows his maſter is in bed he can nor will not keep any ſecret neither hath he ſo much wit as other people for the fellow is half a fool for if you would have buſineſs done with expedition if he once gets out of the town or ſight of you ſhall ſee him no more while the next morning he ſerves me ſo and ſo you muſt expect the ſame if you hire him I uſe

you juſt as I would be uſed myſelf if I deſired a character of you of a ſervant that I had deſigned to hire of yours as to let you know the truth of every thing about him.

I am Sir

Your moſt humble ſervant to command

**** ******

P.S.

He takes good care of his horſes with good looking after him as to the dreſſing 'em but if you dont take care he will fill the manger full of corn ſo that he will cloy the horſes and ruin the whole ſtable of horſes.

Great Addington

June the 28th 1734.

LETTER XXIII.

I TOLD you, I believe, at the beginning of our correſpondence, that I diſliked bag-foxes; I ſhall now tell you what my objections to them are:—the ſcent of them is *different* from that of other foxes; it is *too good*, and makes hounds idle; beſides, in the manner in which they generally are turned out, it makes hounds very wild. They ſeldom fail to know what you are going about before you begin; and, if often uſed to hunt bag-foxes, will become riotous enough to run any thing. A fox that has been confined long in a ſmall place, and carried out afterwards in a ſack, many miles perhaps, his own ordure hanging about him, muſt needs ſtink extravagantly. You are alſo to add to this account, that he moſt probably is weakened for want of his natural food and uſual exerciſe; his ſpirit broken by deſpair, and his limbs ſtiffened by confinement; he then is turned out on open ground without any point to go to: he runs down the wind, it is true, but he is ſo much at a loſs all the while, that he loſes a deal of time in not knowing what to do; while the hounds, who have no occaſion to hunt, purſue as cloſely as if they were tied to

him. I remember once to have hunted a bag-fox with a gentleman, who not thinking theſe advantages enough, poured a whole bottle of *aniſeed* on the fox's back: I cannot ſay that I could have hunted the fox, but I aſſure you I could very eaſily have hunted the *aniſeed*. Is it to be expected, that the ſame hounds will have patience to hunt a cold ſcent the next day o'er greaſy fallows, through flocks of ſheep, or on ſtony roads? However capable they may be of doing it, I ſhould much doubt their giving themſelves the trouble. If, notwithſtanding theſe objections, you ſtill chuſe to turn one out, turn him into a *ſmall* cover, give him what time you judge neceſſary, and lay on your hounds as quietly as you can; and, if it be poſſible, let them think they find him.—If you turn out a fox for blood, I ſhould, in that caſe, prefer the turning him into a *large* cover, firſt drawing it well to prevent a change. The hounds ſhould then find him themſelves, and the ſooner he is killed the better. Fifteen or twenty minutes is as long as I ſhould ever wiſh a bag-fox to run that is deſigned for blood—the hounds ſhould then go home.

Bag-foxes always run down the wind; ſuch ſportſmen, therefore, as chuſe to turn them out, may at the ſame time chuſe what country they ſhall run. Foxes that are found do not follow this rule invariably. Strong earths and large covers

covers are great inducements, and it is no inconſiderable wind that will keep foxes from them. A gentleman, who never hunts, being on a viſit to a friend of his in the country, who hunts a great deal, heard him talk frequently of *bag-foxes*; as he was unwilling to betray his ignorance, his diſcretion and curioſity kept him for ſome time in ſuſpenſe; till, at laſt, he could not refrain from aſking "what kind of animal *a bag-fox* was?—and if it was not "*a ſpecies of fox peculiar to that country?*

A pack of hounds having run a fox to ground immediately after they had found him, he was digged and turned out again; and that the operation of turning him out might be better performed, the maſter of the hounds undertook it himſelf. You will hardly believe me when I tell you, that he forgot the place where he turned him out, and they never once hit upon the ſcent.

If you breed up cubs, you will find a fox-court neceſſary: they ſhould be kept there till they are large enough to take care of themſelves. It ought to be open at the top and walled in: I need not tell you that it muſt be every way well ſecured, and particularly the floor of it, which muſt be either bricked or paved. A few boards fitted to the corners will alſo be of uſe to ſhelter and to hide them. Foxes ought to be kept very clean,

clean, and have plenty of freſh water; birds and rabbits are their beſt food; horſe-fleſh might give them the mange, for they are ſubject to this diſorder.—I remember a remarkable inſtance of it. Going out to courſe, I met the whipper-in returning from exerciſing his horſes, and aſked him if he had found any hares?—No, Sir, he replied, but I have caught a fox.—I ſaw him ſunning himſelf under a hedge, and finding he could not run, I drove him up into a corner, got off my horſe, and took him up, but he is ſince dead.—I found him at the place he directed me to, and he was indeed a curioſity; he had not a ſingle hair on his bruſh, and very few on his body.

I have kept foxes too long; I alſo have turned them out too young: the ſafeſt way, I believe, will be to avoid either extreme. When cubs are bred in an earth near you, if you add two or three to the number, it is not improbable that the old fox will take care of them: of this you may be certain—that if they live they will be good foxes, for the others will ſhew them the country. Thoſe which you turn into an earth ſhould be regularly fed; if they ſhould be once neglected, it is probable they will forſake the place, wander away, and die for want of food. When the cubs leave the earth, (which they may ſoon do) your gamekeeper ſhould throw food for them in parts of the cover where it may be moſt eaſy for them

to

to find it; and when he knows their haunt, he ſhould continue to feed them there: nothing deſtroys ſo much the breed of foxes as buying them to turn out, unleſs care be taken of them afterwards.

Your country being extenſive, probably it may not be all equally good; it may be worth your while, therefore, to remove ſome of the cubs from one part of it into the other; it is what I frequently do myſelf, and find it anſwer.* A fox-court is of great uſe; it ſhould be airy, or I cannot adviſe you to keep them long in it. I turned out one year ten brace of cubs, moſt of which, by being kept till they were tainted before they were turned out, were found dead in the covers, with ſcarcely any hair upon them; whilſt a brace, which had made their eſcape by making a hole in the ſack in which they were brought, lived and ſhewed excellent ſport. Should the

* Though turned out foxes may ſometimes anſwer the purpoſe of entering young hounds, yet they ſeldom ſhew any diverſion; few of thoſe I have turned into my woods have I ever ſeen again: beſides, the turning out of foxes, and alarming the neighbourhood, may *haſten* their deſtruction. Foxes will be plentiful enough where traps are not ſet to deſtroy them; ſhould they do any injury to the farmer, make ſatisfaction for it; encourage the neighbouring gamekeepers to preſerve them by paying them handſomely for every litter of cubs that they take care of for you: if you act in this manner you may not have occaſion to turn any out.

cubs

cubs be large, you may turn them out immediately: a large earth will be beſt for that purpoſe, where they ought to be regularly fed with rabbits, birds, or ſheeps henges, which ever you can moſt conveniently get. I believe, when a fox is once tainted, he never recovers. The weather being remarkably hot, thoſe which I kept in my fox-court (and it, at that time, was a very cloſe one) all died, one after the other, of the ſame diſorder.

Where rabbits are plentiful, nature will ſoon teach your cubs how to catch the young ones; and till that period of abundance arrives it may be neceſſary to provide food for them.* Where game is ſcarce wet weather will be moſt favourable to them; they can then live on beetles, chafers, worms, &c. which they will find great plenty of. I think the morning is the beſt time to turn them out; if turned out in the evening they will be likely to ramble, but if turned out early, and fed on the earth, there is little doubt of their remaining there.† I alſo recommend to you, to

* If a ſheep die, let it be carried to the earth, and it will afford the cubs food for ſome time.

† A more certain method, perhaps, might be to pale in part of a copſe which has an earth in it. It might be well ſtocked with rabbits, the young ones of which the cubs would ſoon learn to catch. You might have meuſes in the pale, and let them out when capable of getting their own food.

turn

turn them into large covers and ſtrong earths; out of ſmall earths they are more liable to be ſtolen, and from ſmall covers are more likely to ſtray. Your game-keeper, at this ſeaſon of the year, having little to do, may feed and take care of them. When you ſtop any of theſe earths, remember to have them opened again; as, I have reaſon to think, I loſt ſome young foxes one year by not doing it. For your own ſatisfaction, put a private mark on every fox which you turn out, that you may know him again. Your cubs, though they may get off from the covers where they were bred, when hunted, will ſeldom fail to return to them.

Gentlemen who buy foxes, do great injury to fox-hunting: they encourage the robbing of neighbouring hunts; in which caſe, without doubt, the receiver is as bad as the thief.—It is the intereſt of every fox-hunter to be cautious how he behaves in this particular: indeed, I believe moſt gentlemen are; and it may be eaſy to retaliate on ſuch as are not.——I am told, that in ſome hunts it is the conſtant employment of one perſon to watch the earths at the breeding time, to prevent the cubs from being ſtolen. Furze-covers cannot be too much encouraged for that reaſon, for there they are ſafe. They have alſo other advantages attending them;—they are certain places to find in;—Foxes cannot break from them unſeen;—

nor are you ſo liable to change as in other covers.*

Acquainted as I am with your ſentiments, it would be needleſs to deſire you to be cautious how you buy foxes. The price ſome men pay for them might well encourage the robbing of every hunt in the kingdom, their own not accepted.—But you deſpiſe the *ſoi diſant* gentleman who receives them, more than the poor thief who takes them.—Some gentlemen aſk no queſtions, and flatter themſelves they have found out that convenient *mezzo termino* for the eaſy accommodation of their conſciences.

With reſpect to the digging of foxes you run to ground; what I myſelf have obſerved in that buſineſs, I will endeavour to recollect. My people uſually, I think, follow the hole, except when the earth is large, and the terriers have fixed the fox in an angle of it; for they then find it a more expeditious method to ſink a pit as near to

* A fox, when preſſed by hounds, will ſeldom go into a *furze-brake*. Rabbits, which are the fox's favourite food, may alſo be encouraged *there*, and yet do little damage. Were they ſuffered to eſtabliſh themſelves in your woods, it would be difficult to deſtroy them afterwards. Thus far I object to them as a farmer; I object to them, alſo, as a fox-hunter; ſince nothing is more prejudicial to the breeding of foxes, than diſturbing your woods, late in the ſeaſon, to deſtroy the rabbits.

him

him as they can. You ſhould always keep a terrier in at the fox, for if you do not, he not only may move, but alſo, in looſe ground, may dig himſelf further in. In digging, you ſhould keep room enough; and care ſhould be taken not to throw the earth where you may have it to move again. In following the hole, the ſureſt way not to loſe it, is to keep below it.——When your hounds are in want of blood, ſtop all the holes, leſt the fox ſhould bolt out unſeen. It cauſes no ſmall confuſion, when this happens. The hounds are diſperſed about, and aſleep in different places; the horſes are often at a conſiderable diſtance; and many a fox, by taking advantage of the moment, has ſaved his life.

If hounds want blood, and have had a long run, it is the beſt way, without doubt, to kill the fox upon the earth; but if they have not run long; if it be eaſy to dig out the fox; and the cover be ſuch a one as they are not likely to change in; it is better for the hounds to turn him out upon the earth, and let them work for him. It is the blood that will do them moſt good, and may be ſerviceable to the hounds, to the horſes, and to yourſelf:—digging a fox is cold work, and may require a gallop afterwards to warm you all again. Before you do this, if there be any other earths in the cover, they ſhould be ſtopped, leſt the fox ſhould go to ground again.

Let your huntſman try all around, and let him be perfectly ſatisfied that the fox is not gone on, before you try an earth; for want of this precaution, I dug three hours to a terrier that lay all the time at a rabbit: there was another circumſtance which I am not likely to forget,—"*that I had "twenty miles to ride home afterwards.*" A fox ſometimes runs over an earth, and does not go into it; he ſometimes goes in and does not ſtay; he may find it too hot, and may not like the company that he meets with there: I make no doubt that he has good reaſons for every thing he does, though we are not always acquainted with them.

Huntſmen, when they get near the fox, will ſometimes put a hound in to draw him. This is however a cruel operation, and ſeldom anſwers any other purpoſe than to occaſion the dog a bad bite, the foxes head generally being towards him; beſides, a few minutes digging will render it unneceſſary. If you let the fox firſt ſeize your whip, the hound will draw him more readily.*

You ſhould not encourage badgers in your woods; they make ſtrong earths, which will be ex-

* You may draw a fox by fixing a piece of whipcord made into a nooſe to the end of a ſtick; which, when the fox ſeizes, you may draw him out by.

penſive

penſive and troubleſome to you if you do ſtop; or fatal to your ſport if you do not. You, without doubt, remember an old Oxford toaſt,

> Hounds ſtout, and horſes healthy,
> Earths well ſtopp'd, and foxes plenty.

All certainly very deſirable to a fox-hunter; yet I apprehend the *earths ſtopped* to be the moſt neceſſary, for the others, without *that*, would be uſeleſs. Beſides, I am not certain that earths are the ſafeſt places for foxes to breed in; for frequently, when poachers cannot dig them, they will catch the young foxes in trenches, dug at the mouth of the hole, which I believe they call *tunning* them. A few large earths near to your houſe are certainly deſirable, as they will draw the foxes thither, and, after a long day, will ſometimes bring you home.

If foxes ſhould have been bred in an earth which you think unſafe, you had better ſtink them out: *that*, or indeed any diſturbance at the mouth of the hole, will make the old one carry them off to another place.

In open countries, foxes, when they are much diſturbed, will lie at earth. If you have difficulty in finding, ſtinking the earths will ſometimes produce them again. The method which I uſe to

ſtink an earth is as follows:—three pounds of ſulphur, and one pound of aſſafœtida are boiled up together; matches are then made of brown paper, and lighted in the holes, which are afterwards ſtopped very cloſe.—Earths, that are not uſed by badgers, may be ſtopped early, which will anſwer the ſame purpoſe; but where badgers frequent, it would be uſeleſs, for they would open them again.

Badgers may be caught alive in ſacks, placed at the mouth of the hole; ſetting traps for them would be dangerous, as you might catch your foxes alſo. They may be caught by ſtinking them out of a great earth, and afterwards following them to a ſmaller one, and digging them.

Your country requires a good terrier; I ſhould prefer the black or white terrier; ſome there are ſo like a fox, that awkward people frequently miſtake one for the other. If you like terriers to run with your pack, large ones, at times, are uſeful; but in an earth, they do but little good, as they cannot always get up to a fox. You had better not enter a young terrier at a badger:—young terriers have not the art of ſhifting like old ones; and, ſhould they be good for any thing, moſt probably will go up boldly to him at once, and get themſelves moſt terribly bitten; for this reaſon you ſhould enter them at young foxes,

when you can. Before I quit this ſubject, I muſt mention an extraordinary inſtance of ſagacity in a bitch-fox, that was digged out of an earth with four young ones, and brought in a ſack upwards of twenty miles to a gentleman in my neighbourhood, to be turned out the next day before his hounds. This fox, weak as ſhe muſt have been, ran in a ſtrait line back again to her own country, croſſed two rivers, and was at laſt killed near to the earth ſhe was digged out of the day before.—Foxes that are bred in cliffs near the ſea, ſeldom are known to ramble any great diſtance from them; and ſportſmen, who know the country where this fox was turned out, will tell you, that there is not the leaſt reaſon to think that ſhe could have any knowledge of it.

Beſides the digging of foxes, by which method many young ones are taken, and old ones deſtroyed; traps, &c. too often are fatal to them. Farmers for their lambs, (which, by the bye, few foxes ever kill) gentlemen for their game, and old women for their poultry, are their inveterate enemies. I muſt, however, give an inſtance of civility I once met with from a farmer.—The hounds had found, and were running hard; the farmer came up in high ſpirits, and ſaid, "I hope, "Sir, you will kill him; he has done me much "damage lately; he carried away all my ducks "laſt week:—I would not *gin* him though—too

" good a ſportſman for that."—So much for the honeſt farmer.——

In the country where I live moſt of the gentlemen are ſportſmen; and even thoſe who are not, ſhew every kind of attention to thoſe who are; I am ſorry it is otherwiſe with you: and that your old gouty neighbour ſhould deſtroy your foxes, I muſt own, concerns me. I know ſome gentlemen, who, when a neighbour had deſtroyed all their foxes, and thereby prevented them from purſuing a favourite amuſement, loaded a cart with ſpaniels, and went all together and deſtroyed his pheaſants. I think they might have called this, very properly, *lex talionis*, and it had the deſired effect; for as the gentleman did not think it prudent to fight them *all*, he took the wiſer method, he made peace with them. He gave an order that no more foxes ſhould be deſtroyed, and they never afterwards killed any of his pheaſants.

LET-

LETTER XXIV.

I AM now, my friend, about to take leave of you; and at the ſame time that I give repoſe to you, let me intreat you to ſhew the ſame favour to your hounds and horſes. It is now the breeding ſeaſon, a proper time, in my opinion, to leave off hunting; ſince it is more likely to be your ſervants amuſement, than your's; and is always to the prejudice of two noble animals, which we ſportſmen are bound in gratitude to take care of.

After a long and tireſome winter, ſurely the horſe deſerves ſome repoſe. Let him then enjoy his ſhort-lived liberty; and as his feet are the parts which ſuffer moſt, turn him out into a ſoft paſture. Some there are, who diſapprove of graſs, ſaying, that when a horſe is in good order, the turning him out undoes it all again.—It certainly does.—Yet at the ſame time, I believe, that no horſe can be freſh in his limbs, or will laſt you long without it.—Can ſtanding in a hot ſtable do him any good?—and can hard exerciſe, particularly in the ſummer, be of any advantage to him? Is it not ſoft ground and long reſt that will beſt

refreſh his limbs, while the night air, and morning dews will invigorate his body?—Some never phyſic their hunters; only obſerving, when they firſt take them up from graſs, to work them gently: ſome turn out their's all the year. It is not unuſual for ſuch as follow the latter method, to phyſic their horſes at graſs; they then are taken up, well fed, and properly exerciſed to get them into order; this done, they are turned out for a few hours every day when they are not ridden. The paſture ſhould be dry, and ſhould have but little graſs; there they will ſtretch their limbs, and cool their bodies, and will take as much exerciſe as is neceſſary for them. I have remarked, that thus treated they catch fewer colds, have the uſe of their limbs more freely, and are leſs liable to lameneſs than other horſes. Another advantage attends this method, which, in the horſes you ride yourſelf, you will allow to be very material:—your horſe, when once he is in order, will require leſs ſtrong exerciſe than grooms generally give their horſes; and his mouth, in all probability, will not be the worſe for it.

The Earl of Pembroke, in his Military Equitation, is, I find, of the ſame opinion; he tells us,—"It is of the greateſt conſequence for horſes "to be kept clean, regularly fed, and as regularly "exerciſed: but whoever chooſes to ride in the "way of eaſe and pleaſure, without any fatigue

"on

" on horſeback, or, in ſhort, does not like to carry " his horſe, inſtead of his horſe's carrying him, " muſt not ſuffer his horſe to be exerciſed by a " groom; ſtanding up on his ſtirrups, holding " himſelf on by means of the reins, and thereby " hanging his whole dead weight on the horſe's " mouth, to the entire deſtruction of all that is " good, ſafe, or pleaſant about the animal."—— And in another place he ſays,—" Horſes ſhould " be turned looſe ſomewhere, or walked about " every day, when they do not work, particularly " after hard exercife: ſwelled legs, phyſic, &c. " will be ſaved by theſe means, and many diſtem- " pers avoided." He alſo obſerves that, " it is " a matter of the greateſt conſequence, though " few attend to it, to feed horſes according to " their work. When the work is hard, food " ſhould be in plenty; when it is otherwiſe, the " food ſhould be diminiſhed immediately, the hay " particularly."

I have no doubt that the noble author is perfectly right in theſe obſervations: I am alſo of opinion that a handful or two of clean wheaten ſtraw, chopped ſmall, and mixed with their corn, would be of great ſervice to your horſes, provided that you have intereſt enough with your groom to prevail on him to give it them.

Such of my horſes as are phyſicked at graſs, have two doſes given them when they are turned out, and three more before they are taken up.—Graſs phyſic is of ſo mild a kind, that you will not find this quantity too much; nor have I ever known an accident happen from it, although it has been given in very indifferent weather. I ſhould tell you, that my horſes are always taken in, the firſt night after their phyſic, though the printed directions, I believe, do not require it. Such horſes as are full of humours ſhould be phyſicked at houſe, ſince they may require ſtronger doſes than graſs phyſic will admit of, which, I think more proper to prevent humours, than to remove them. The only uſe I know in phyſicking a horſe that does not appear to want it, is to prevent, if poſſible, his requiring it at a time when you cannot ſo well ſpare him—I mean the hunting ſeaſon: ſhould an accident of this kind happen, Stibium's balls, of which I ſend you the receipt, will be found of uſe:

Crocus Metallorum, levigated	2 ozs.
Stibium's ditto - -	2
Flour of brimſtone -	1
Caſtile ſoap - -	1
Liquorice powder -	1

Honey, q. ſ. to make it into a paſte.

A ball of one ounce weight is to be given for three mornings ſucceſſively.—The horſe muſt be kept faſting for two hours after he has taken it: he then may have a feed of corn, and ſoon after that moderate exerciſe. The ſame ſhould be repeated four days afterwards.—Theſe balls purify the blood, and operate on the body by inſenſible perſpiration.

I frequently give nitre to ſuch of my hunters as are not turned out to graſs:—it cools their bodies, and is of ſervice to them. It may be given either in their water, or in their corn; I ſometimes give an ounce in each.

To ſuch of my horſes as are thick winded, and ſuch as carry but little fleſh, I give *carrots*. In many ſtables they are given *at the time of feeding*, in the corn; I prefer giving them at any other time—for it is a food which horſes are ſo fond of, that if by any accident you ſhould omit the *carrots*, I doubt if they would eat the *corn*, readily, without them.

I think you are perfectly in the right to mount your people well; there is no good œconomy in giving them bad horſes; they take no care of them, but wear them out as ſoon as they can, that they may have others.

The

The queſtion you aſk me about ſhoeing, I am unable to anſwer. Yet I am of opinion, that horſes ſhould be ſhod with more or leſs iron, according as the country where they hunt requires; but in this, a good farrier will beſt direct you. Nothing certainly is more neceſſary to a horſe than to be well ſhod. The ſhoe ſhould be a proper one, and it ſhould fit his foot. Farriers are but too apt to make the foot fit the ſhoe.* My groom carries a falſe ſhoe, which juſt ſerves to ſave a horſe's hoof, when he loſes a ſhoe, till it can be put on again. In ſome countries you ſee them loaded with ſaws, hatchets, &c. I am

* I venture to give the following rules on ſhoeing—in a ſhort and deciſive manner, as founded on the ſtricteſt anatomical and mechanical principles, laid down by the beſt maſters. The ſhoe ſhould be flat, and not turned up at the heel, or reach beyond *that*, or the *toe*: but the middle part ſhould extend rather beyond the outward edge of the hoof, that the hoof may not be contracted; the outward part of which may be pared to bring it down to an even ſurface, to fit it for the fixing on of the ſhoe.—If the foot be too long, the *toe* may be pared, or raſped down; which, in many caſes, may even be neceſſary to preſerve the proper ſhape of the hoof, and bring the foot to a ſtroke, and bearing, the moſt natural and advantageous. Neither the horny-ſole, or frog, (meant by nature for the guard of the foot, and ſafety of the horſe) are, upon any account, to be pared or cut away. The ſmall, looſe, ragged parts, that at times appear, ſhould be cut off with a pen-knife; but that deſtructive inſtrument called the *butteris*, which, in the hands of ſtubborn ignorance, has done more injury to the feet of horſes than all the chaces of the world, ſhould be baniſhed for ever.

glad

glad that the country in which I hunt does not require them. In the book I have juſt quoted, you will find the ſhoeing of horſes treated of very much at large. I beg leave, therefore, if you want further information on that head, to refer you to it.

Having declared my diſapprobation of ſummer hunting, on account of the horſes, I muſt add, that I am not leſs an enemy to it on account of the hounds alſo; *they*, I think, ſhould have ſome time allowed them to recover the ſtrains and bruiſes of many a painful chace; and their diet, in which the adding to their ſtrength has been, perhaps, too much conſidered, ſhould now be altered. No more fleſh ſhould they now eat; but in its ſtead, ſhould have their bodies cooled, with whey, greens, and thin meat: without this precaution, the mange, moſt probably, would be the immediate conſequence of hot weather, perhaps madneſs:—direful malady!

As a country life has been recommended in all ages, not leſs for the contentment of the mind, than the health of the body, it is no wonder that hunting ſhould be conſidered by ſo many as a neceſſary part of it, ſince nothing conduces more to both: a great genius has told us, that it is

> Better to hunt in fields for health unbought,
> Than ſee the doctor for a naufeous draught.

With

With regard to its peaceful ſtate, according to a modern poet:

> No fierce unruly ſenate threatens here,
> No axe, or ſcaffold to the view appear,
> No envy, diſappointment, and deſpair.

And for the contentment which is ſuppoſed to accompany a country life, we have not only the beſt authority of our own time to ſupport it, but even that of the beſt poets of the Auguſtan age. Virgil ſurely felt what he wrote, when he ſaid, "*O fortuna nimium ſuati ſi bona norint, agricolæ*;" and Horace's famous ode, "*Beatus ille qui procul negotiis*," ſeems not leſs to come from the heart of a man, who is generally allowed to have had a perfect knowledge of mankind; and this, even at the time when he was the favourite of the greateſt emperor, and in the midſt of all the magnificence of the greateſt city in the world.

The elegant Pliny alſo, in his epiſtle to Minutius Fundanus, which is admirably tranſlated by the Earl of Orrery, whilſt he arraigns the life he leads at Rome, ſpeaks with a kind of rapture of a country life: "Welcome," ſays he, "thou "life of integrity and virtue! welcome ſweet "and innocent amuſement! Thou that art al-"moſt preferable to buſineſs and employment of "every kind." And it was *here*, we are told, that

that the great Bacon experienced his trueſt felicity. With regard to the *Otium cum dignitate*, ſo much recommended, no one, I believe, underſtands the true meaning of it better, or practiſes it more ſucceſsfully than you do.

A rural life, I think, is better ſuited to this kingdom than to any other; becauſe the country in England affords pleaſures and amuſements unknown in other countries; and becauſe its rival, our Engliſh town (or ton) life, perhaps is a leſs pleaſant one than may be found elſewhere. If this, upon a nice inveſtigation of the matter, ſhould appear to be ſtrictly true, the concluſion that would neceſſarily reſult from it might prove more than I mean it ſhould; therefore we will drop the ſubject. Should you, however, differ from me in opinion of your town life, and diſapprove what I have ſaid concerning it, you may excuſe me, if you pleaſe, as you would a lawyer, who does the beſt he can for the party for whom he is retained. I think you will alſo excuſe any expreſſions I may have uſed, which may not be current *here*; if you find, as I verily believe you may, that I have not made uſe of a French word, but when I could not have expreſſed my meaning ſo well by an Engliſh one:—it is only an unneceſſary and affected application of a foreign language, that in my opinion, is deſerving of cenſure.

To

To thoſe who may think the danger which attends upon hunting a great objection to the purſuit of it, I muſt beg leave to obſerve, that the accidents which are occaſioned by it are very few. I will venture to ſay, that more bad accidents happen to ſhooters in one year than to thoſe who follow hounds in ſeven. You will remind me, perhaps, of the death of T——k, and the fall of D——t; but do accidents never happen on the road? the moſt famous huntſman and boldeſt rider of his time, after having hunted a pack of hounds for ſeveral years unhurt, loſt his life at laſt by a fall from his horſe as he was returning home. A ſurgeon of my acquaintance has aſſured me, that in thirty years practice, in a ſporting country, he had not once an opportunity of ſetting a bone for a ſportſman, though ten packs of hounds were kept in the neighbourhood. This gentleman ſurely muſt have been much out of luck, or hunting cannot be ſo dangerous as it is thought. Beſides, they are all timid animals that we purſue, nor is there any danger in attacking them: they are not like the furious beaſt of the *Gevaudan*, which, as a French author informs us, an army of 20,000 French chaſſeurs went out in vain to kill.

If my time in writing to you ſhould not have been ſo well employed as it might have been, *you* at leaſt will not find that fault with it; nor ſhall

I repent

I repent of having employed it in this manner, unleſs it were more certain than it is, that it would have been employed *better*. It is true, theſe letters are longer than I firſt intended they ſhould be: they would have been *ſhorter* could I have beſtowed *more time* upon them. Some technical words have crept in imperceptibly, and with them ſome expreſſions better ſuited to the field than to the cloſet: nor is it neceſſary, perhaps, that a ſportſman, when he is writing to a ſportſman, ſhould make excuſes for them. In ſome of my letters you have found great variety of matter; the variety of queſtions contained in *your's* made it ſometimes unavoidable. I know there muſt be ſome tautology; it ſcarcely is poſſible to remember all that has been ſaid in former letters; let that difficulty, if you pleaſe, excuſe the fault. I fear there may be ſome contradictions for the ſame reaſon, and there may be many exceptions. I truſt them all to your candour, nor can they be in better hands. I hope you will not find that I have at different times given different opinions; but ſhould that be the caſe, without doubt you will follow the opinion which coincides moſt with your own. If on any points I have differed from great authorities, I am ſorry for it; I have never hunted with thoſe who are looked up to as the great maſters of this ſcience; and when I differ from them it is without deſign. Other methods, doubtleſs, there are, to make the keeping of hounds much more

more expenſive, which, as I do not practiſe myſelf, I ſhall not recommend to you;—treated after the manner here deſcribed they will kill foxes, and ſhew you ſport. I have anſwered all your queſtions as concisely as I was able, and it has been my conſtant endeavour to ſay no more than I thought the ſubject required. The time may come, when more experienced ſportſmen and abler pens may do it greater juſtice; till then, accept the obſervations that I have made: take them, read them, try them. There was a time when I ſhould readily have received the information they give, imperfect as it may be; for experience is ever a ſlow teacher, and I have had no other. With regard to books, Somervile is the only author whom I have found of any uſe on this ſubject; you will admire the poet and eſteem the man; yet I am not certain that you will be always ſatisfied with the leſſons of the huntſman. Proud of the authority, I have quoted from him as often as it would ſuit your purpoſe; and, for your ſake, have I braved the evident diſadvantage that attended it. I wiſh this elegant poet had anſwered all your queſtions; you then would have received but one letter from me—to refer you to him. That no other writer ſhould have followed his ſteps may thus, I think, be accounted for: thoſe gentlemen who make a profeſſion of writing live chiefly in town, conſequently cannot be ſuppoſed to know much of hunting: and

thoſe

thoſe who do know any thing of it are either ſervants that cannot write, or country gentlemen who will not give themſelves the trouble. However, I have met with ſome curious remarks which I cannot help communicating to you. One author tells us, that "courſing is more agreeable than "hunting, *becauſe it is ſooner over:*"—"that a "terrier *is a mungrel greyhound:*"—and "*that* "*dogs have often coughs from eating fiſh bones.*"

Another (a French author) adviſes us to give a horſe, after hunting, "a ſoup made of bread and "wine, and an onion."—I fear an Engliſh groom would eat the onion and drink the wine.

The ſame author has alſo a very particular method of catching rabbits, which you will pleaſe to take in his own words, he calls it—*Chaſſe du lapin à l'ecreviſſe.* "*Cette chaſſe convient aux per-* "*ſonnes qui ne veulent employer ni furets ni armes à* "*feu: on tend des poches d'une extrémité d'un ter-* "*rier, et à l'autre on gliſſe une ecreviſſe; cet animal* "*arrive peu-a-peu au fond de la retraite du lapin,* "*le pique, s'y attache avec tant de force, que le* "*quadrupede eſt obligé de fuir, emportant avec lui* "*ſon ennemi, et vient ſe faire prendre dans le filet* "*qu'on lui a tendu à l'ouverture du terrier. Cette* "*chaſſe demande beaucoup de patience: les opera-* "*tions de l'ecreviſſe ſont lentes, mais auſſi elles ſont* "*quelque fois plus ſures que celles du furet.*"

This gentleman's ſingular method of hunting rabbits *with a lobſter*, reminds me of a method harlequin * has of killing hares, not leſs ingenious, with *Spaniſh ſnuff*. Brighella tells him, that the hares eat up all his maſter's green wheat, and that he knows not how to kill them; "nothing more eaſy," replies harlequin—"I will "engage to kill them *all* with two pennyworth "of ſnuff. They come in the night, you ſay, "to feed on the green wheat; ſtrew a little ſnuff "over the field before they come, it will ſet "them all a ſneezing; nobody will be by to ſay "*God bleſs you*, and, of courſe, they will all die."

I believe, during our preſent correſpondence, that I have twice quoted the Encyclopedie with ſome degree of ridicule; I muſt, notwithſtanding, beg leave to ſay, in juſtice to myſelf, that I have great eſteem for that valuable work.

On opening a very large book called the *Gentleman's Recreation*, I met with the following remarkable paſſage:—"Many have written of this "ſubject, as well the antients as moderns, yet "but few of our countrymen to any purpoſe; "and had one all the authors on this ſubject, "(as indeed on any other) there would be more

* The harlequin of the Italian theatre, whoſe *tongue* is at liberty as well as his *heels*.

"trouble

" trouble to paſs by than to retain; moſt books " being fuller of words than matter, and of that " which is for the moſt part very erroneous."—All who have written on the ſubject of hunting ſeem to agree in this at leaſt, to ſpeak indifferently of one another.

You have obſerved in one of your letters, that I do not always follow my own rules; and, as a proof of it, you have remarked that many of my hounds are oddly named:—I cannot deny the charge. I leave a great deal to my huntſman; but if you aim at perfection, leave as little as you can help to your's. It is eaſier, I believe, in every inſtance, to know what is right than it is to follow it; but if the rules I have given be good, what does it ſignify to you whether I follow them or not? A country fellow uſed to call every directing poſt he ſaw a *doctor*. He was aſked, why he called them ſo? " Why, maſter," ſaid he, " I " never ſee them but they put me in mind of the " parſon of our pariſh, who conſtantly points " out a road to us he does not follow himſelf."

If I can add to the amuſement of ſuch as follow this diverſion, I ſhall not think my time has been ill employed; and if the rules which are here given may any ways tend to preſerve that friendly animal the hound from one unneceſſary laſh, I ſhall not think they have been written in

vain.* It never was my expectation to be able to ſend you a complete treatiſe:—*Thoughts upon Hunting, in a ſeries of familiar Letters*, were all I propoſed to myſelf the pleaſure of ſending:—the trouble I have taken in writing them entitles me to ſome indulgence; nor did I, therefore, whilſt I endeavour to render them of uſe, ſtand in any fear of criticiſm. Yet if any man, as idle as I have already declared myſelf to be, ſhould take the trouble to criticiſe theſe letters, tell him this:—An acquaintance of mine, who had beſtowed much time in improving his place whenever he heard it found fault with, "aſked where "the critic lived? whether he had any place of "his own? whether he had attempted any im-"provements? and concluded with promiſing *a* "*peep at it.*"—The gentleman here alluded to had leſs humility than your humble ſervant.

* Strangely unfortunate ſhould I think myſelf, if while I profeſs to be a friend to dogs, I ſhould prove their bittereſt enemy, and if thoſe rules which were intended to leſſen, ſhould increaſe their ſufferings; convinced as I am by experience, that a regular ſyſtem of education is the ſureſt means to render correction unneceſſary. Hard is that heart (if any ſuch there be) which can ill uſe a creature ſo affectionate and ſo good; who has renounced his native liberty to aſſociate with man, to whoſe ſervice his whole life is dedicated: who, ſenſible of every kindneſs, is grateful for the ſmalleſt favour; while the worſt uſage cannot eſtrange his affection, in which he is (beyond all example) conſtant, faithful, and diſintereſted; who guards him by night, and amuſes him by day, and is, perhaps, the only companion who will not forſake him in adverſity.

Take,

Take, therefore, my ſentiments in the following lines:

——— *Si quid noviſti rectius iſtis,*
Candidus imperti; ſi non, his utere mecum.
HOR.

Farewell.*

* The ſong which was at the end of the firſt edition of theſe letters having been already printed by its author, and thought too local to be neceſſary here, is now omitted.

Note, Page 115, line 21, after *ſervice*, add, I now uſe, inſtead of digeſtive ointment, a poultice made of Goulard, as recommended by Arnaud, in his edition of that treatiſe, page 203.

AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE MOST CELEBRATED

DOG KENNELS

IN THE

KINGDOM.

Agreeable to the intimation given at the concluſion of the ſecond Letter of this Work, the Editor preſents the Readers of it with an account of the moſt celebrated DOG KENNELS, *beginning with*—

HIS MAJESTY'S, AT ASCOT:

WITH AN EXACT REPRESENTATION OF THE SAME, BEAUTIFULLY ENGRAVED.

THIS building is ſituated in the center of Aſcot Heath, juſt below the hill, about three quarters of a mile north-weſt of the ſtarting poſt, and includes in its advantages one of the beſt ſituations for the purpoſe of any in the kingdom.

To

Cook sculp

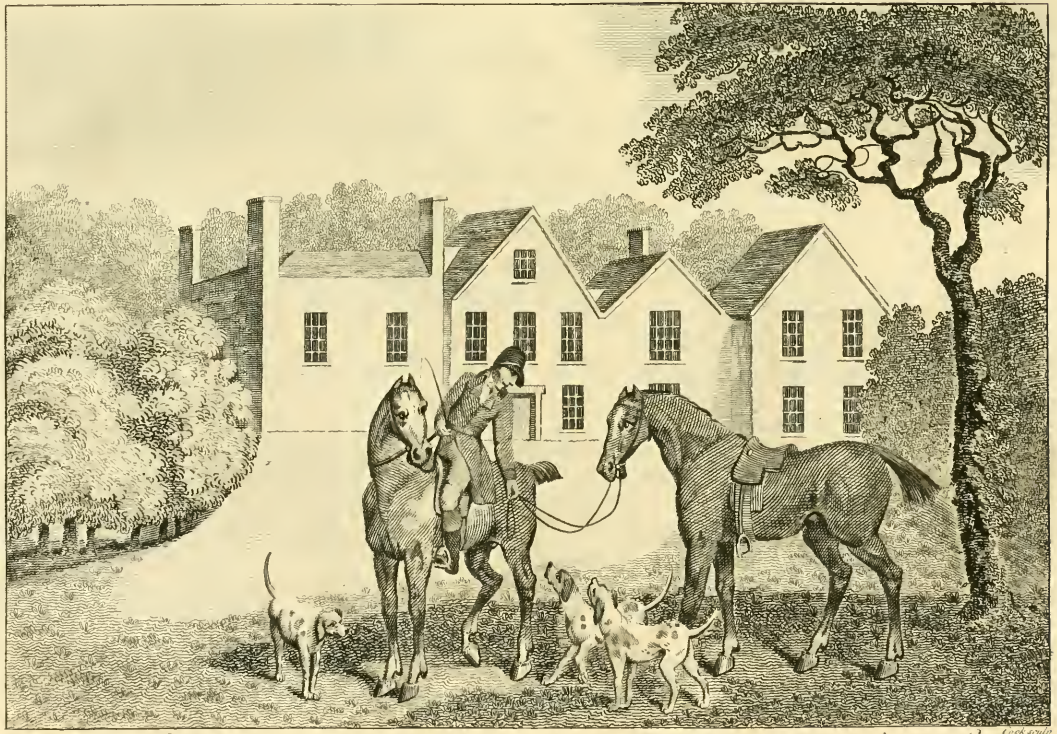
His MAJESTY'S Dog Kennel at ASCOT.

Published by J. Wheble, Warwick Square, Dec.r 1 1793.

To the excellence and univerſally admitted ſuperiority of the eſtabliſhment, every inferior conſideration becomes ſubſervient, and the conſtant ſuperintendance of his Majeſty contributes to the promiſed attainment of every perfection. The dwelling houſe of Johnſon, his Majeſty's huntſman, conſtitutes a part of the fabric, and of the *interior parts* of this, his Majeſty condeſcends to make a ſurvey, with the ſame congenial eaſe and happy affability, as to ſuch parts of the ſtructure as become more immediately appropriate to public purpoſe. We are well aware the world in general conſider his Majeſty's appearance in the field as matter of *convenience* or *neceſſity*, and adopted only as a preſervative of health or a preventative to ill; it becomes the peculiar province however, of this article, to wipe away ſo ridiculous an idea, and to hold forth the moſt unequivocal aſſurance that there is no ſportſman in the kingdom who enters more into the minutiæ of the kennel, or the energy of the chace. His Majeſty is not only familiar to the names of the leading hounds in the pack, but frequently ſelects them in the kennel, as peculiar objects of attention. The ſize of the hounds, the increaſe of the packs, the diminution of ſtock, the entering of puppies, or drafting old hounds, are equally and rationally matters to which his Majeſty attends, though by no means dictatorially; but once *well informed*, in reply to his inquiries, after

making his own obſervations, he moſt happily and engagingly ſubmits the final arrangements to thoſe whoſe official province it is to ſuperintend the execution.

The hounds conſiſt, in fact, of two packs, which paſs under the denomination of the "old" and the "young hounds," and are alternately brought into uſe in the following way: the great body of old and ſtaunch hounds are always ſelected for ſuch deer as are known to be good runners, and conſtantly produced in the field when his Majeſty meets: to theſe are frequently added three or four couple of young hounds, till the whole have been entered in rotation, and the two packs are, by ſuch gradational introduction, enabled to conſtitute a kind of conſolidation in reſpect to abilities, for whatever exigences may enſue or circumſtances require.



Swinley Lodge, the residence of the Master of His Majesty's Stag Hounds.

Published March 1st 1791 by W. Wheble Warwick Square.

The Reſidence of the Maſter of his Majeſty's Stag Hounds being contiguous to the above Building, an Engraving, *equally deſcriptive of its Situation, is alſo annexed, and the following ſhort Account, it is hoped, will not be deemed unintereſting.*

SWINLEY LODGE,

IS ſituated upon Aſcot Heath, about a mile ſouth-weſt of the ſtarting poſt, ſurrounded by hills, and ſheltered by lofty trees from ſuch ſeverity of the elements as is frequently experienced in ſituations ſo abſtracted from rural aſſociation. Notwithſtanding its ſequeſtered aſpect and remote erection in the middle of a dreary heath, it has every internal convenience to render it happily appropriate to the purpoſe for which it was originally intended. Excluſive of an excellent ruſtic manſion, poſſeſſing the room and requiſites for which our buildings of former centuries are ſo eaſily diſtinguiſhable, it has annexed ranges of excellent ſtabling, commodious yards, domeſtic gardens (leſs in the ſtile of *ornament* than *utility)*; paddocks applied ſolely to paſture for the reception of red deer, as well as various parcels

parcels of land, diſtinctly divided into the required proportions of meadow and arable, for the cultivation of ſuch hay and corn of every kind as may be required upon the premiſes. To theſe accumulated conveniences may be added the various fiſh ponds, which, with the live ſtock of every kind produced upon the premiſes, may be ſaid to conſtitute an aggregate of the moſt luxurious gratification within a fenced circle of fertility, two miles in circumference, though ſurrounded by one of the moſt *barren* ſpots in the univerſe, producing only *fuel* for the inhabitants of that and diſtant pariſhes, and *heath* for *brooms*, by manufacturing which moſt of the neighbouring indigents obtain a livelihood. To this diſtrict, and its ſurrounding hills, his Majeſty's herd of red deer appertain; here they breed, and being conſtantly fed (like the cattle more domeſticate) in the ſeverity of the winter ſeaſon, they conſider it their home, and become (to thoſe they are accuſtomed to ſee) much leſs ferocious, and more aſſociate, than can well be ſuppoſed of an animal ſo naturally wild, and ſo little ſubject to a perſonal ſurvey from human viſitants.

The preſent reſident has given a life and ſpirit to the ſcene that it never poſſeſſed during the official career of either of the two laſt of his predeceſſors, and will ſecure to Lord Sandwich the reſpect of every ſportſman in the kingdom.

DUKE

The Duke of Richmond's Dog Kennel at Goodwood in Sussex.

Publishd according to Act of Parliament by J. Wheble, Warwick Square Octo.r 1.1793.

DUKE OF RICHMOND'S, AT GOODWOOD.

THE next that claims attention is the kennel erected by his Grace of Richmond, at Goodwood, in Suſſex, and which the engraving annexed is a perfect delineation. To a perſon unacquainted with his Grace, the expenditure of upwards of 10,000*l.* on a dog kennel might appear a matter of ſurprize, but to the writer of this, who is no ſtranger to his munificence, it appears no more than a common occurrence.

The duke was his own architect and builder: he dug his own flints, burnt his own lime, made his own bricks, and formed the wood-work in his own ſhops.

THE DOG KENNEL

Is a place by itſelf in the park, and is a grand object to the beſt rooms in the houſe. The front is handſome. The ground is well raiſed about it, and turfed. The effect is good.

The dimenſions.—The length is 148 feet, the depth 30; the height, from the crown of the arches

arches that ſupport it, 18 feet on the ſides; in the center 28 feet.

The materials are flints, finiſhed at all the angles by a light grey brick, like the Lymington white ſtock.

The diſtribution of the building is into five kennels; two of them 36 by 15—three more 30 by 15; two feeding rooms, 28 by 15. In each there are openings at the top for cold air, and ſtoves to warm the air when too cold. There are ſupplies of water, and drains, into a ſtank, as it is called, a depth below, full of rain water. From the ſurface of this rain water to the riſe of the arch, is 11 feet; ſo that inconvenience from ſmell there is none; and the whole at any time can be cleared off, by drains, to more dependent depths, dung-pits, &c. So that, as an aid to farming, it is not altogether uſeleſs.

Round the whole building is a pavement five feet wide, airing yards, places for breeding, &c. &c. making part of each wing.

For the huntſman, and for the whipper-in, there is a parlour, a kitchen, and a ſleeping room for each.

It

It will contain two packs; but at preſent the duke has only fox-hounds. The dogs are reduced from 60 to 40 couple.

Before this building was finiſhed, the dogs uſed to be kept at Hannaker and Charlton, and twelve hunters were farmed by an old huntſman, who is now dead. This part of the eſtabliſhment is farmed no more.

DUKE OF BEDFORD's, AT WOBURN ABBEY.

BY way of introducing what is the more immediate object of our attention, it may be neceſſary to ſlightly notice the other improvements of his Grace—particularly as the engraving which accompanies it, includes the whole of the buildings erected for his ſporting eſtabliſhment.

The tennis court and riding houſe (with apartments between to dreſs in) forms a building 266 feet 8 inches long, and 49 feet 6 inches wide, the whole front of which is ſtone: the roof is a flat one, and covered with a compoſition of tar, chalk, &c. inſtead of lead. There are flues run along the walls, and under the pavement of the tennis court, to keep off the damps: the walls of the inſide of the riding houſe are painted in pannels, with high pilaſters, and the ceiling is painted to repreſent a clear ſky.

There are two wings of ſtables, one of which only is yet fitted up by Mr. Holland, and contains ſtalls for 36 hunters, with 11 hoſpital apartments for ſick and lame horſes: there is a

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD'S STABLES, WITH THE NEW TENNIS-COURT & RIDING-HOUSE AT WOBURN ABBEY.

ſaddle room with glaſs-fronted preſſes, and flues running along the walls, to keep the ſaddles dry; two ciſterns with hot and cold water, one of which is heated by the ſame fire that warms the flues, a pair of jockey ſcales, &c.

The dog kennel (eſteemed the completeſt in England) is 405 feet long, in the center of which ſtands the boiling-houſe, with feeding-houſes adjoining, and a granary behind: on the left are diviſions for litter, ſtraw, eleven apartments for bitches and puppies, with yards to each; eleven ditto for bitches in pup, with yards alſo, and a large diviſion for bitches at heat. On the right of the center are apartments for two kennel keepers, two long lodging rooms for the hunting hounds, with flues running along the walls, ſpacious yards to each, furniſhed with a fountain in the center for the hounds to drink at, and water cocks iſſuing near the pavement, to cleanſe it: adjoining to theſe, are ſeven hoſpitals for ſick hounds, with yards to each.

In the front is a large pond, which ſupplies the fountains and different cocks in the ſeveral yards within.

Behind is a large airing ground, fleſh-houſe, &c.

The

The huntſman's houſe is a handſome building adjoining.

From fifty and ſeventy couple of working hounds are kept in the kennel.

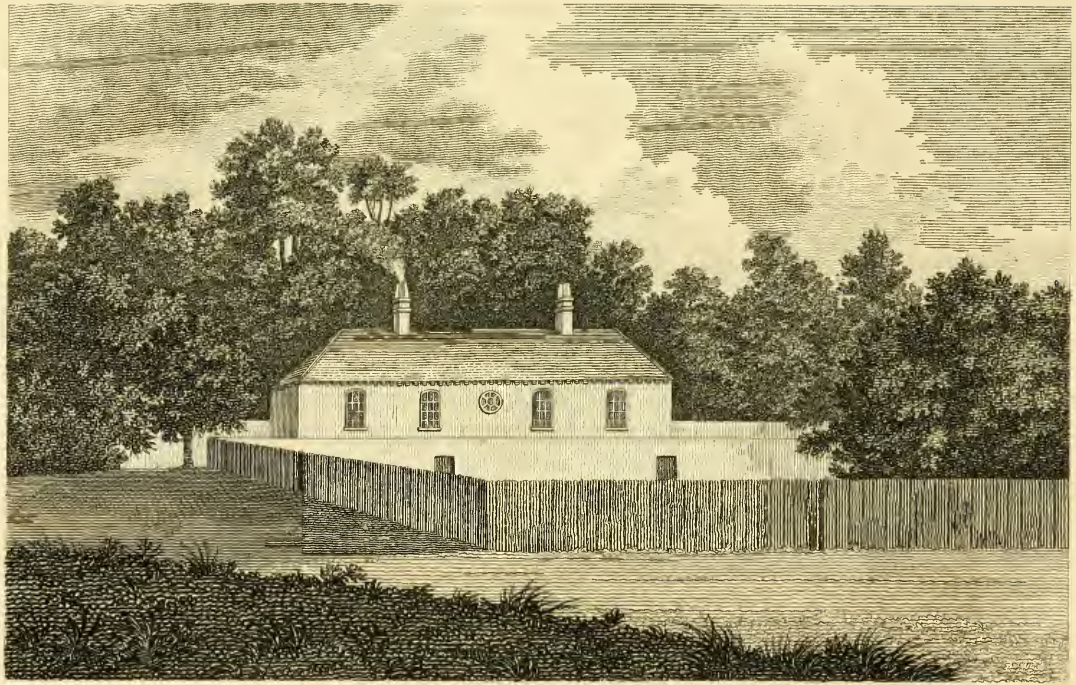
SIR WILLIAM ROWLEY'S, AT TENDERING HALL, SUFFOLK.

With a beautiful Repreſentation of the Building, and a Ground Plan of the ſame.

NEATNESS and convenience are moſt happily blended together in this compact kennel, and the whole gives no bad ſpecimen of the taſte and judgment of the munificent proprietor, who planned it himſelf, without any reference to more ſumptuous edifices.

The ſituation is to the caſtward of the noble manſion erected by the late Admiral Sir Joſhua Rowley, father to Sir William, at the diſtance of about half a mile. From near the kitchen garden it has a moſt picturesque and beautiful appearance: from this ſpot the view is taken.

The



Perfpective View of SIR WILLIAM ROWLEYS DOG KENNEL at Tendring Hall Suffolk

Publifhd Sept.1.1793 by I.Wheble Warwick Court London

The kennel is placed in a deep valley in the park, a ſituation admirably adapted for the purpoſe, being equally defended from the cutting eaſterly winds, and the heat of the ſun in its meridian, by a thick ſkirting of park and foreſt trees. Not having the advantage of a rivulet to water the courts, that want is amply ſupplied by a pump, which, by means of different cocks, turns the water to every part of the premiſes.

The entrance to the building is at *a*.

a, Is a paſſage, having on the right a coal-houſe, *b*, and on the left, *c*, the feeder's reſidence, which is in the convenient cottage ſtyle, with a neat bed-chamber over it.

d, Is the boiling houſe, with two coppers at *e*.

f, Is the furnace of a flue, which paſſes under the adjoining room, viz.

g, The hunting kennel, or principal lodging room: this room is 20 feet by 18 in the clear, and 18 feet high, paved with flag-ſtones. The beds, or benches, which cover almoſt the whole area, are of an excellent and original contrivance, being lathed, like ſome bedſteads, and all made to fold up with joints, for the convenience of waſhing the floor beneath them. By means of the flue

at *f*, this room is heated to any temperature, and the hounds, after ſevere chaces, and in wet weather, are rendered dry and comfortable in a much leſs time than they would be by any other means.

h, The kennel, or lodging room for the young hounds. This is of the ſame dimenſions as the preceding, and enjoying all the ſame conveniences, except the flue, which would here be uſeleſs.

i, Several ſmall kennels for bitches, previous to geſtation.

k, Several ſmall kennels for bitches with young puppies.

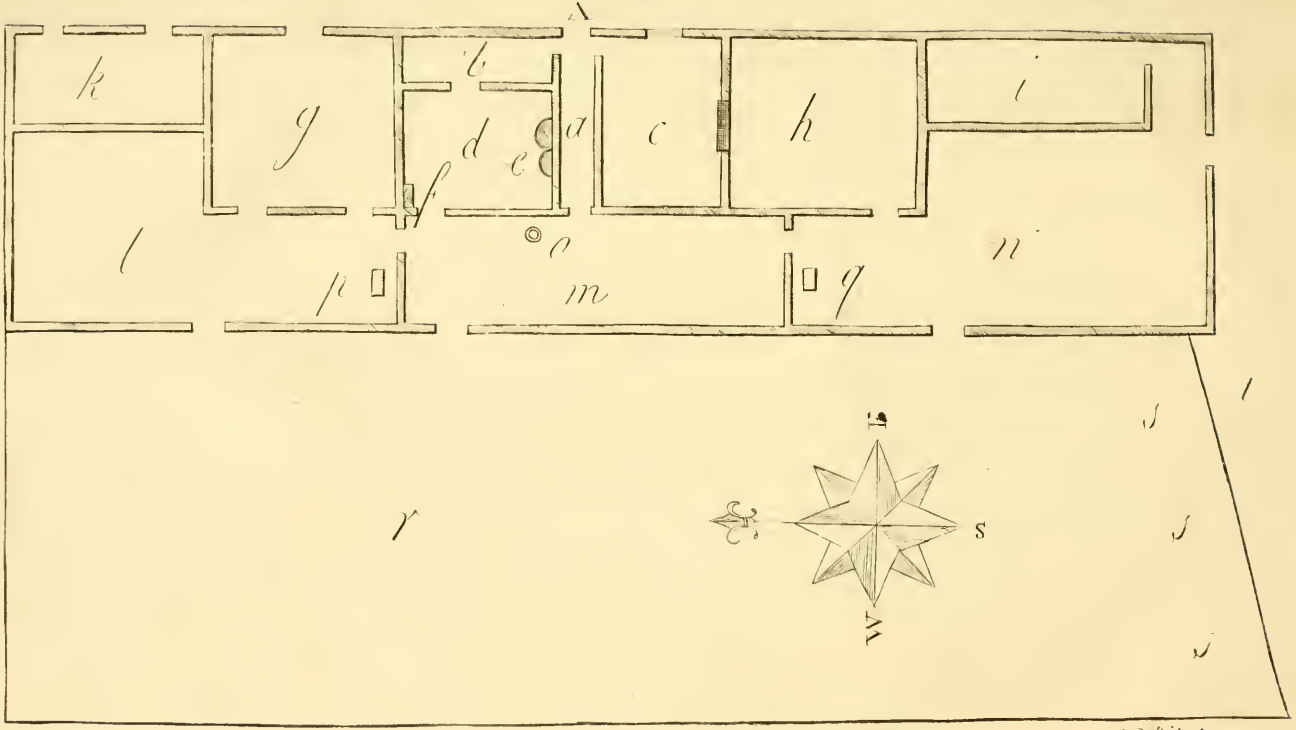
l, Paved court to the hunting kennel.

m, Feeding houſe, one half of which is open, the reſt under cover.

n, Paved court to the young hounds' kennel.

o, Pump: *p*, *q*, ſtone water ciſterns.

r, Great graſs yard, for airing the hounds belonging to the hunting kennel, containing about an acre and three quarters.



PLAN OF SIR WILLIAM ROWLEY'S DOG KENNEL.

ſ, ſ, ſ, Avenue of lime, cheſnut, and other trees in the great graſs yard, forming a moſt excellent ſhade for the hounds.

t, Graſs yard for the young hounds, containing about one acre and a quarter, with lime, French aſh, and other trees, for ſhade.—N. B. The ſize of the plate would not admit ſhewing the boundaries of this yard, without diminiſhing the ſcale.

u, The park.

☞ To the puppy kennels, 12 in number, and admirably well adapted for the purpoſe.

Tendering Hall is beautifully ſituated in the pariſh of Stoke-by-Nayland, in Suffolk, which is ſeparated from the county of Eſſex by the navigable river Stour, which runs from hence to Stratford, Dedham, Maningtree, and Miſtley, where it receives veſſels of conſiderable burthen, and proceeding on about ten miles farther, diſcharges itſelf into the ocean at Harwich.

The hunt has been eſtabliſhed about ſeven years, and we run no riſk of being contradicted when we ſay, that, with regard to the excellence of the hounds, the regulations, and the management of the pack, which conſiſts of 36 couple,

it is inferior to none, of ſimilar magnitude, in the kingdom.

Situated on the borders of two counties abounding with excellent covers, and every way well calculated for fox-hunting, the worthy baronet, greatly eſteemed by the neighbouring gentry, and beloved by a numerous and reſpectable tenantry, proves himſelf a true deſcendant of Nimrod; while his lady, in the prime and bloom of life, adorned with every female virtue and accompliſhment, and not leſs eſteemed and beloved by all ranks of people than her huſband, frequently enjoys with him the ſports of the field, and convinces the world that the moſt delicate habits of thinking and acting are not incompatible with being charmed with the muſic of the hounds, the delights of the chace, and the health-giving exerciſe of equeſtrian diverſions.

FINIS.